

U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

MR. ERNIE LAZAR
POST OFFICE 423434
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94142-3434

JUL 19 2000

Subject of Request: MERWIN KIMBALL HART

FOIPA No. 439743 /190- HQ-1250177

Dear Requester:

#1 = 2/13/42

#103 = 6/3/64 ←

NYC file 100-21056

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552

Section 552a

☒ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☒ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (b)(3) _____

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 370 pages(s) were reviewed and 201 page(s) are being released.

During the review of material pertinent to the subject of your request, documents were located which

☒ originated with another Government agency(ies).

These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

☐ contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts

Subject: MERWIN KIMBALL HART

File Number: 100-NY-21056

SECTION: 1



*see serial -23
appeal no more
court proceedings
-31*

*-42 re: Mum
Winnick Mum
Seltzer
case*

Federal Bureau of Investigation

*Freedom of Information
and
Privacy Acts*

Subject: MERWIN KIMBALL HART

File Number: 100-NY-21056

SECTION: 2



Federal Bureau of Investigation

BULKY EXHIBIT

Date received VariousNEW YORK FILE NO. 100-21056-1ARE: MERWIN K. HART

(Title of case)

Submitted by Special Agent VariousSource from which obtained Various

Address _____

Purpose for which acquired EvidenceLocation of bulky exhibit VaultUltimate disposition to be made of exhibit To be retained.List of contents:

27. March 4, 1948 copy of publication "THE WITNESS", containing letter published by HART. Submitted 2/15/48. See serial 84.

28. Copy of article entitled "THE STRANGE CASE OF MERWIN K. HART, made available by [REDACTED] See serial 97.

1A 28 missing as of 4/25/1952

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267NLS/CLC/KL
439743

100-21056-1A
MAR 1 1948
ROUTED TO
FILE

File number _____

MERVIN K. HART
NEW YORK FILE 100-21056-1A

b7c

All exhibits to be retained in the New York file unless noted otherwise.

- x 1. Personal letter from [redacted] enclosing one copy of New York State Economic Council Circular letter dated October 1, 1942.
- x 2. Mail Tracings.
- x 3. New York State Economic Council letter #106.
- x 4. New York State Economic Council letter #107, also attached copy of bill S2883 in the Senate of the U. S.
- x 5. Copy of declaration and answer in \$1,000,000 libel suit MERVIN K. HART plaintiff vs. Friends of Democracy, defendants.
- x 6. Several photostatic copies of letter, correspondence, etc. of subject obtained from [redacted] that are to be used in defense in the \$1,000,000 libel suit brought by Hart vs. Democracy. #3 to #6 were obtained from various sources, see serial 22, from Dec. 1, 1942 to January 27, 1943. Not to be returned. Submitted by Agent [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/80 BY 60267 NUC/uc/p/L
459793

Note See serial 32 -

7. x Clipping apparently from P.M. undated re Mervin K. Hart.
8. x National Economic Council pamphlet entitled "What is this the Gestapo" by Rose Wilder Lane.
9. x National Economic Council letter #115 dated 8/1/43.
10. x Copy of "Re: Declaration of Independence" distributed by National Economic Council.

(7-10) obtained from an unidentified source Aug. 1943. Submitted by Agent [redacted]

- x Original sent to Bureau Photostatic copies made as per Agent [redacted]

- x 11. Pamphlets & Natl. Economic letter received from [redacted] re: subject.

- x 12. Letter of 9/20/43 re: pamphlets "Winning a Lasting Peace" & "For American Independence" & "Freedom" submitted by [redacted] 8/20/43. Obtained from [redacted]

100-21056-1A

F.B.I.
N.Y.C.

ROUTED TO

SUBJECT:

MERWIN K. HART

N. Y. FILE NO. 100-21056-1A

All exhibits to be retained in N. Y. File unless further noted.

- X 13. One copy of Economic Council letter for April 1944.
- X 14. " " " " " " " May 1944.
- X 15. " " " " " " " June 1944.
- X 16. " " " " " " " Review of Books for April 1944.
- X 17. " " " " " " " May 1944.
- X 18. " " " " " " " June 1944.
- X 19. One pamphlet "Should the U. S. Accept More European Refugees"?
- X 20. " " "Who Said Freedom of Speech"?
- X 21. " " "Comments on [REDACTED] Article - Federal Power and States Rights".
- X 22. One copy of "Straw" #1, dated April 1944 and published by Nat. Econ. Council.
- X 23. " " " " #2, " May 1944 " " " " " "
- X 24. " " " " #3, " June 1944 " " " " " "
- X 25. " " " Application for membership dated June 1944.

b7C NOTE: The above were submitted by SA. [REDACTED] 10/17/44, obtained from [REDACTED] Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 8 W. 40th Street, New York City, 9/26/44. Not to be returned.

186. *Paupeter and: Filed "Economic Council Review", June 1945-*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/crc/pt
439743

1. destroyed 2/13/40 by SA [REDACTED]

100-21056-1A	
F. B. I.	
OCT 17 1944	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: NY Field Division

3/12/58 Date

Title and Character of Case: MERWIN K. HART
SM - C

Date Property Acquired: SEE BELOW

Source From Which Property Acquired: SEE INDIVIDUAL LB'S

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: VAULT

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: EVIDENCE & INFORMATION
PERMANENT

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same: SEE BELOW

29. 3/12/58. Letter dated 12/30/57 signed [REDACTED] b7c
30. " National Economic Council, Inc. letter dtd. 10/1/57.
31. " National Economic Council, Inc. letter dtd. 10/15/57.

NOTE: Exhibits 29 thru 31 rec'd 1/16/58 by SA [REDACTED] Subm. 2/17/58. al

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/00 BY 60267 NUS/ELC/PL
F34743

Field File #:

100-21156-10
AK AC

JOHN EDGAR H
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 13, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: MERVIN K. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Send file

Dear Sir:

The Attorney General has submitted a memorandum to the Bureau enclosing a memorandum from notes made by the Vice President during a conversation with an unidentified individual.

The latter communication refers to Mervin K. Hart as an individual paid by Franco. It states Hart introduced Dies at a Madison Square Garden meeting in 1939 when Dies made a speech against foreign intervention.

65-1-154
Your office has conducted investigation of this individual in connection with the case entitled JOHN ECGHAN KELLY, with aliases, REGISTRATION ACT, INTERNAL SECURITY. It is desired that a summary report be prepared setting forth all pertinent information regarding Hart contained in the Kelly file and the other files of the New York Office. This report should contain Hart's name as the subject, and is desired as the basis for opening a new case file in which he would be the only subject.

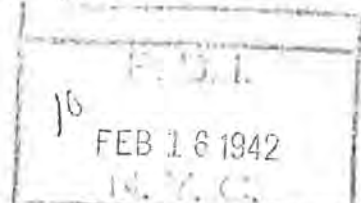
Very truly yours,

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DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/cic/pk
439743

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

100-21056-1



b7c

[Redacted signature]
rel me

JBW

607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

April 14, 1942

HOH:AHB
100-21056

[REDACTED]
Headquarters Second Corps Area
Governors Island
New York, N. Y.

b7c
DECLASSIFIED BY 10267NLS/KCL
ON 1/27/00
439743

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: MERVIN K. HART

My dear Colonel [REDACTED]

In connection with your request relative to information concerning the above mentioned individual, there is set forth below a consolidation of information which appears in the files of this office.

Through a confidential informant, who was closely associated with the above captioned individual, it was learned that MERVIN K. HART is president of the New York State Economic Council with offices at 17 East 42nd Street, New York City. This confidential informant advised [REDACTED] started to work for HART [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The confidential informant advised that [REDACTED] there was a luncheon given for MARTIN DIES by the New York State Economic Council at the Biltmore Hotel at which time it was observed that JAMES WHEELER-HILL, at that time an officer of the German-American Bund, was in attendance along with FRITZ KUHN. It was further advised by this informant [REDACTED] for HART he formed the American Union For Nationalist Spain and in that connection was constantly in touch with various religious leaders. Continuing she advised that the Council is financed through subscriptions and donations made by CARLOS LAMONT, and that Du Pont gave HART from \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year; further, that the Texas Company gave him \$1,000 whenever he asked for it. HART's most intimate associate is CAPTAIN JOHN B. TREVOR, the head of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies. At the time of the conversations with this confidential informant, she advised that presently in this country was JEANNE d'ARAOZ SIGNORA, who was assistant to the Minister of Propaganda for Franco, and that this individual was at the time of the conversation an Associated Press correspondent for Spain. She further advised that SIGNORA had offered to obtain a job for HART's son if he desired one. As mentioned above, HART is head of the Council and [REDACTED]

The files of this office further reflect that COL. CHARLES LINDBERGH has called on MERVIN K. HART at his office several times having had conferences with him on numerous occasions. It is further noted that LINDBERGH usually entered MR. HART's office through a back door. It is noted that the chairman [REDACTED]

100-21056-2
H.H.

Letter [REDACTED] Re: MERVIN K. HART

April 14, 1942

of the Board of the Texas Company, who resigned after publicity was given to his visits to a DR. WESTRICK in Westchester County some time ago, has made donations to the New York State Economic Council whenever the payroll was low in funds.

b7C ✓ MR. HART also has contacts or has had contacts with the Spanish ambassador and with dock workers in New York City. From information appearing in the files of the New York office, which has been furnished previously by various informants, it is indicated that HART at one time was very close to members and leaders of the Christian Front organization. ✓ Various informants have also advised that HART was closely associated with MAJOR JOHN EOGHAN KELLY; ALLEN ZOLL; FATHER TALBOT, editor of the Jesuit publication, AMERICA; [REDACTED] who is connected with the BROOKLYN TABLET; [REDACTED] of the INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SOCIETY; [REDACTED] publisher; [REDACTED] and others. [REDACTED]

Other information obtained from confidential informants reflects that the New York State Economic Council is devoting fully 90% of its time to the dissemination of propaganda for or on behalf of the Spanish rebel government. The whole tenor of the propaganda which is distributed for rebel Spain is to build up Generalissimo Franco as being the man who is fighting the great fight for the cause of Christianity against Communism.

Very truly yours,

OK

F. E. FOXNORTH
Assistant Director

REQUEST INFORMATION FROM THE F.B.I., NEW YORK, ON THE FOLLOWING:

DATE May 14, 1942

NAME AND ALIASES HART, MERWIN K., JR.

HOME ADDRESSES (for the past 3 yrs.) Pippin Hill, New Hartford, New York

BUSINESS ADDRESSES (for the past 3 yrs.) Utica, New York

EMPLOYED BY Utica Mutual Insurance Co.

AGE 23 BORN 6/16/18 PLACE Utica, New York

DESCRIPTION: COLOR white HEIGHT 5'8" WEIGHT 147½ EYES brown HAIR brown

REMARKS: (Include any other data that will assist in identifying person.)

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/10 BY 60267 nrs/peep
439743

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS AREA
OFFICE OF ASS'T CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2
GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK

FOR USE OF F.B.I.

REFERENCES:

Merwin K. Hart
100-21056

Information reflected in
files furnished to:



100-21056-3

FBI	DATE
JUN 19 1942	BY
N.Y.C.	Special Agent.
ROUTED TO	

b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056 AMN**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 7/2/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/11/13/42	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">b7c</div>
TITLE MERVIN K. HART, with alias Merwin K. Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 25%;"> SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: </div> <div style="width: 75%;"> <p>MERVIN K. HART is President of New York State Economic Council, New York City. Subject present at luncheon given for MARTIN DIES at which time also present were JAMES WHISLER-HILL and FRITZ KURN, officials of German-American Bund. HART also founded American Union for Nationalist Spain. He had contact with Spanish ambassador and contacts with dock workers in New York City. Council devotes 90% of time to dissemination of propaganda for and on behalf of Spanish Rebel Government and appears to be a Fascist organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau letter to New York Field Division dated 2/13/42.</p> <p>DETAILS: This investigation is predicated upon receipt of referenced Bureau letter at which time it was requested that a summary report be prepared setting forth all pertinent information regarding HART.</p> <p>A check of the indices of the New York Field Division reflects that the following investigation was conducted by the New York office in regard to MERVIN K. HART:</p> <p>Confidential Informant [redacted] was contacted at which time information advised that [redacted]</p> <p>[redacted] Informant's work is more or less that of [redacted] Informant advised that subject HART is</p> </div> </div>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; float: left; margin-right: 10px;"> ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1/12/00 BY 60272 usj/ucj/pt </div>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">100-21056-4</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">5</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">AMN</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px; margin-right: 5px;">5</div> <div> Bureau New York </div> </div>			

NY file #100-21056

connected with the New York State Economic Council which occupies offices on the premises at 17 East 42 Street, New York City, telephone number [REDACTED]. Informant, continuing, stated that [REDACTED] is also employed by the New York State Economic Council. According to the informant it would appear that the New York State Economic Council, while it does actually get out an economic letter to its approximately 17,000 members on economic conditions, is also engaged in other activities and it might be mentioned that even this economic letter is definitely anti-Administration.

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It appears, according to informant, that the headquarters of the Council seems to serve as a meeting place for a group of people who are interested apparently in the setting up of what would amount to a Totalitarian form of government in the United States. Some of the people who come into the picture are known as either being strongly anti-Communist, outstanding so-called patriots, or plain American-Fascists. It appears that the one individual who seems to have the most influence on the extra-curricular activities of the Council is JOHN E. KELLY who, it will be noted, is a subject in the New York case entitled JOHN EUGENE KELLY, with alias; REGISTRATION ACT; INTERNAL SECURITY.

It was ascertained from informant [REDACTED] that the Economic Council is devoting 90% of its time to the dissemination of propaganda for and on behalf of the Spanish Rebel Government. No actual published propaganda is sent out direct from the Council office but constant conferences and discussions occur which indicate that such propaganda is being distributed through other agencies. Informant advised that some pamphlets and circulars are sent out in quantities of two and three million copies; further, according to informant, KELLY calls the Council offices as many as twenty and thirty times a day and apparently no move is made without KELLY's approval.

Informant said that the whole tenor of the propaganda which they distribute for Rebel Spain is to build up GENERALISSIMO FRANCO as being the man who is fighting the great fight for the cause of Christianity as against Communism.

In connection with the work of [REDACTED] informant was sent to interview [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is bitterly opposed to our form of Government and when he mentions ROOSEVELT or the present Administration he expresses his disgust by "spitting" on the floor. [REDACTED] told informant that the greatest of the Totalitarians is HITLER; third is Fascism; fourth is FRANCO.

According to Special Agent [REDACTED] who interviewed [REDACTED]

NY file #100-21056

Informant [redacted] insofar as he could understand the situation, the New York State Economic Council was engaged in a fight against Communism, then became involved in the fight to support the FRANCO Rebellion in Spain, and is continuing that work apparently to the exclusion of the fight against Communism, but in some way has passed into a fight against not only the present Administration but in actual opposition of our form of Government.

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Additional information furnished by Informant [redacted] reflects that MERVIN K. HART appears to be the "front man" for Major J. E. KELLY who is the dominating force behind the activities of the group which revolves around the New York office of the New York State Economic Council. In this connection it might be noted that informant stated that the Council has a membership of about 17,000 throughout New York State and that applicant does not believe that they have any part in this plotting which goes on at the local offices of the organization.

HART, at one time, mentioned to informant in a casual conversation that he had been at one of the meetings of FRITZ KUHN's German-American Bund and that they were very crude. Informant advised that when the luncheon was being arranged to honor Congressman MARTIN DIES, this being the luncheon which got so much publicity because of the presence of FRITZ KUHN and his staff of the German-American Bund, HART telephoned a number of people on behalf of the Council in connection with the actual organization of the luncheon and in the course of conversation he mentioned that the Catholic Church must be kept in the background.

Informant said that HART has visited Spain, Germany, and Italy and made intensive studies of conditions there. In spite of his statement of being against the Totalitarian form of Government HART has stated to informant in conversations that this country and England have been on the road to ruin for the past 100 years and he refers to the vice and political corruption as evidence of the failure of this form of Government and states that they must have a stronger Government.

In the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated November 27, 1939 at New York City it is noted that information was received that on August 24, 1939 HART directed a memorandum to his [redacted] an employee of the New York State Economic Council, directing her to conduct some research work concerning current propaganda tending to draw the United States into a European war if one should take place. He stated in part:

"Propaganda frequently takes the form of simply repeating over and over again the statement that in case of war we will inevitably

NY file #100-21056

"be drawn in - that the American people are becoming more and more convinced that they cannot escape being drawn in, etc., etc. It rarely, if ever, takes the form in urging the people that they should get into the war. "

In connection with HART's attitude in promoting FRANCO, the following memorandum written by HART states:

"You will recall the editorial that appeared in the Observer Dispatch entitled 'The Meanest Man' which referred to the alleged story that FRANCO had seized food sent by Americans to little children. Unquestionably this was part of the vicious propaganda in America which seeks to misrepresent the facts about FRANCO to the American people. It is quite apparent that the press fell victim to this publicity campaign. "

In reply to an allegation appearing in the press regarding the fact that FRANCO's troops had seized food which had been sent to feed women and children in Spain, HART answers this as follows:

"May I say, too, that we have had advice since then to the effect that food that was seized by FRANCO's troops was taken without authority; that the Spanish authorities have notified the Friends that the food taken would be restored; and that a part of it has already been restored. In other words, it is feared that what had happened was the act of irresponsible persons. "

Informant advised that the book which subject HART was writing and for which book she was acting as ghost writer was entitled AMERICA LOOKS AT SPAIN.

In a newspaper article appearing in the New York Times under the date line of February 27, 1941, the following information is contained:

MERVIN K. HART, President of the New York State Economic Council, yesterday accused Secretary of the Interior HAROLD L. ICKES of having a false statement about him on Tuesday night in an attack on opponents of President ROOSEVELT's foreign policy. Mr. HART stated as follows:

" Secretary ICKES, a member of the Cabinet of the President of the United States, last night said that Colonel LINDBERGH, Father COUGHLIN, Major WILLIAMS, LAWRENCE DENNIS and I 'are supported by others who play upon the prejudices of the anti-Semite, the anti-Negro and the anti-sharecropper.' "

ICKES

In answer to the statement made by Mr. ICKES, HART accuses him/of accusing him of treason and denies that his statements are false and that he is neither anti-Semite, anti-Negro or anti-sharecropper. HART states that

"Mr. ICKES's tolerance apparently does not extend to those of his fellow-citizens who disagree with his view that the United States should be driven into war whether she is prepared or not".

By Bureau letter dated February 10, 1941 information was transmitted which came from an unknown outside source to the Bureau to the effect that:

" The Hour is informed that Mervin K. Hart, whose fascistic inclinations were recently denounced by Secretary Ickes, is planning a considerable expansion of his anti-democratic work. In the immediate future, the New York State Economic Council, of which Hart is chairman, will begin holding large meetings in principal cities throughout New York State. The Council's publicity will describe the campaign as an attempt to bring about 'a spiritual, moral and patriotic revival.' The actual purpose, of course, is to spread over the widest possible area the fascistic teachings of Hart's organization. "

An anonymous letter was received by the New York Field Division dated July 3, 1941 which reflected that "In the employ of MERVIN K. HART, 505 Fifth Avenue, there is a [REDACTED] It is questionable just how loyal she might be".

"An Innocent Bystander" (Signed) "

On January 27, 1940 Confidential Informant [REDACTED] was interviewed by Assistant Director E. J. Connelley regarding any information informant might have concerning MERVIN K. HART. Informant informed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] whose offices are located in Room 417, 17 East 42 Street, New York City. Informant advised that she met subject HART through [REDACTED] who was an acquaintance of HART as a customer of the bank [REDACTED] started to work for HART [REDACTED] HART advised informant that he had just returned from Spain where he was in touch with the Nationalist Leader and believed that they were saving the world from Communism. He wanted to write a book to show that the same thing might occur here in the United States.

She advised that HART had published a book entitled AMERICA LOOKS AT SPAIN which was published by Kennedy and Company. HART advised informant that in this book he wanted to show that Communism was overthrowing the

NY file #100-21056

world and that something must be done about it in this country. In connection with the luncheon held for MARTIN DIES, which was mentioned previously, [REDACTED]

this luncheon for DIES was given by the New York State Economic Council at the Bellmore Hotel, New York City. Informant advised that JAMES WHEELER-HILL, Second in Command of the German-American Bund, was there along with [REDACTED]

The luncheon was open to the public. She stated that the presence of [REDACTED] and JAMES WHEELER-HILL did not mean that they were connected with the Economic Council as tickets were on sale to the public; however, informant said that the people actively working for HART considered [REDACTED] and WHEELER-HILL as martyrs fighting for a cause.

b7c Informant said [REDACTED] he formed the American Union for Nationalist Spain and, in that connection, was constantly in touch with various religious leaders. Informant, continuing, said that the Council is financed through subscriptions and donations made by the Texas Company and by Lamont Dupont. According to informant, HART's most intimate associate is Captain JOHN T. TRAYNER, the head of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies.

At the time of the conversation with informant she advised that presently in the country was JEANNE D'ARAOZ SIGNORA who was Assistant to the Ministry of Propaganda for FRANCO, and that she was then an Associate Press Correspondent for Spain. This person offered to get a job for HART's son if he desired one. While in New York City she resided at the Barbizon Hotel.

Informant advised that she knew of no tie-up with the German-American Bund of Mr. HART or any of his organization. HART, she advised, is head of the Council and ARTHUR C. COSSY is Secretary of the Council and is a retired army man with a private income and many social contacts all over the United States. [REDACTED]

- P E N D I N G -

NY file #100-21056

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will conduct further investigation regarding the activities, associates, and nationalistic tendencies of MERVIN K. HART who is President of the New York State Economic Council.

Will conduct appropriate investigation regarding the activities of the New York State Economic Council in order to ascertain whether it is engaged in the dissemination of propaganda detrimental to the United States.

NY file #100-21056

IDENTITY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Confidential Informant mentioned in report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
at New York City is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HART whose offices are
located at [REDACTED]

July 16, 1941

65-1969-4 PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT:

65-0

S. 1114

THE FOLLOWING IS AN OFFICE THAT SHOULD BE
INVESTIGATED:

NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, 505 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK CITY.

61-508 with memo

1 27-6-26-39

61-508-166

-155

-154

-143

-152

-174

202

COLONEL CHARLES LINDBERG HAS CALLED ON MR. MERWIN
K. HART, WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, AT HIS OFFICE
SEVERAL TIMES, HAD CONFERENCES WITH HIM AND TELEPHONE HIM.
HE USUALLY ENTERED MR. HART'S OFFICE THROUGH A BACK DOOR.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE TEXAS COMPANY, WHO RESIGNED
AFTER PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN TO HIS VISITS TO A DR. WESTRICK IN
WESTCHESTER SOME TIME AGO, HAS GIVEN DONATIONS TO THE NEW
YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL WHEN THEIR PAY ROLL WAS LOW OF U
FUNDS. MR. HART ALSO HAS CONTACT WITH THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR,
AND CONTACTS WITH DOCK WORKERS IN NEW YORK. HE IS PRO GERMAN
HE HAS HAD TELEPHONE CALLS TO MR. DIES OF THE DIES COMMISSION,
BUT DON'T KNOW IF HE USES MR. DIES TO COVER HIS ACTIONS.
MR HART'S NIECE IS IN HIS OFFICE AS RECEPTIONIST OR TELEPHONE
OPERATOR. THIS REALLY SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO

CC: TO MR. HOOVER OF F.B.I.

A TRUE COPY
(yms)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/EC/PL

100-21056-5	
F. B. I.	
AUG 15 1941	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 15, 1942

100-120334

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/cic/pl

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Re: Mervin K. Hart
Internal Security - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of February 13, 1942, wherein you were requested to summarize all the pertinent information in the New York files concerning the above individual.

A review of the Bureau's file fails to disclose the receipt of the requested report. It is therefore desired that you advise the Bureau when this report will be submitted.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

*See serial 4
7/9/42*



100-21056-69	
F. B. I.	
(10)	JUL 16 1942
N. Y. C.	
[Redacted]	

b7c

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 11, 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/CLC/h-L

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Re: MERVIN K. HART;
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Dear Sir:

b7C

Reference is made to the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [REDACTED] on July 2, 1942, at New York City. You will recall that this report set forth a summary of information pertaining to subject available in the New York Field Division's files.

It is my desire that an investigation be carried out to determine the current activities of subject and the New York State Economic Council, with particular reference to a determination of whether their activities amount in any way to a violation of the registration statutes.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

100-21056-7
F. B. I.
AUG 12 1942
N. Y. C.

[REDACTED]

b7C

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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New York City
October 25, 1942.

MERWIN K. HART.

In connection with the investigation of some years ago of MERWIN K. HART and his alleged Nazi tie-ups and his attacks on the President:

The apartment rental section of the N.Y. Times of October 14th, 1942. has a note that he leased an apartment at 141 East 56th Street, New York City.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 1/27/00 BY 40267ms/llc/pl

100-21056-96

New York, New York

100-21056
IAL/mtg

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60367NLS/pc/jk

October 28, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: MERWIN K. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith in duplicate, report of
Confidential Informant [REDACTED] dated October 25, 1942 relating to
the above individual. [REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

A copy of this report is being placed in the New York
Division file relating to HART.

Very truly yours,

PS
P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

Enc.
cc 65-3137

100-21056-1085

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

607 U.S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, New York

STL:FCM
100-21056

November 3, 1942.

Honorable Albert Goldman,
Postmaster,
General Post Office,
33rd Street & Eighth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267ms/cc/pk

Dear Sir:

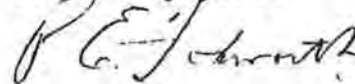
In connection with an investigation being conducted by this Bureau, it is requested that a cover be placed on the mail of the following for a period of thirty days:

NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL,
505 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

When forwarding tracings to this office,
please refer to our file No. 100-21056.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours



P. E. FOXWORTH,
Assistant Director

100-21056-115



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

100-120334

Date: November 6, 1942

To: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: MERVIN K. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Reference is made to my letter dated August 11, 1942, requesting that additional investigation be carried out to determine the current activities of this subject and the New York State Economic Council.

It is desired that the Bureau be advised when a report will be submitted by your office in this matter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267NLS/CLC/HK

ack. 11/20/42
sth



100-21056-12

F. B. I.	
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[Redacted]

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N.Y.

STL:FCM
100-21056

November 7, 1942.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267rus/pc/jcl

b7c

[REDACTED]
New York, N.Y.

My dear [REDACTED]

Your recent letter with the enclosure has been received, and you may be sure it will be given appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours,

By
P. E. FOXWORTH,
Assistant Director.

100-21056-15^{h5}

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK.**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056**

FCM

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11/17/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/6,7,10,15, 16,17,20/42.	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> b7c
TITLE CHANGED: MERWIN K. HART alias Mervin K. Hart.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

INDEXED

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation shows that subject, who is President of the New York State Economic Council, 505 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C., was sympathetic to the cause of **GENERAL FRANCO** of Spain; that he was, and apparently still is, very anti-Communist and a severe critic of the present administration. **HART** is presently living with his wife at 141 E. 56th St., N.Y.C., and still publishes the "New York State Economic Council Letter." He is generally regarded as quiet, dignified gentlemanly type, and probably not supported by any foreign funds. Present balances, both personal and business confined to three figures. Investigation being continued.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

- P - DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267NLS/ELC/PL

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent dated at New York, N.Y., July 2, 1942. **b7c**

Bureau letter dated August 11, 1942.

DETAILS: The title of this case is marked changed showing subject's true name which previously appeared in reference report as an alias, inasmuch as present investigation has indicated from all contacts that **MERWIN K. HART** is his true name.

This case was summarized in reference report, but is being set forth for the benefit of offices not receiving copies of previous report.

It may be stated that **HART** is a man passed middle age, married

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">[Signature]</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 2-Albany 1- <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> G2 1- <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> ONI 3-New York		<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">b7c</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.2em;">100-21056-16</div>
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and his occupation is that of an attorney from Utica, New York. It appears that he has been active for the last 13 or 14 years as head of the New York State Economic Council with offices in New York City, which was originated ostensibly for the purpose of reducing financial expenditures in the State of New York and to reduce the New York State Budget. Many prominent citizens from many fields are included on the Board of Directors and it is thought that probably the Directors have little to do with the functions of the Council except from an economic standpoint. However, it is well known that during the Spanish Civil War HART was openly sympathetic toward GENERAL FRANCO and, in fact, paid a visit to Spain, and after returning to the United States wrote a book entitled "America Looks At Spain." HART is violently anti-Communist and has been for years a severe critic of the New Deal. It has also been stated that in the past one JOHN EUGENE KELLY is the dominating force behind the activities of the group. HART has also been referred in the Public Press as a Fascist and has drawn adverse criticism by Secretary ICKES. On the other hand HART has sponsored certain luncheons and speeches by Congressman MARTIN DIES in New York City.

Informant [redacted] mentioned in reference report was not contacted.

It was learned from Post Office Station G that MERWIN K. HART had moved during the month of October from 10 West 55th Street to 141 East 56th Street, New York City. This is his personal address.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] stated that he was unable to give any information derived from real estate circles concerning subject on the activities of the New York State Economic Council.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that his files contained no report on subject as an individual but there was information in his files on the New York State Economic Council, Incorporated, showing its full address to be room 405, 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The officers are listed as of July of 1942, MERWIN K. HART, President; ARCHIBALD EWING STEVENSON, Vice-President; and ROBERT LINCOLN BURROWS, Secretary. This report states that in March, 1931 the above company was incorporated under the membership laws of the State of New York as a nonprofit organization without capital entity. During 1939 the offices were moved from 17 East 42nd Street to the present location. The officers have changed from time to time and it is reported that the office of Treasurer is now vacant while those of Assistant Secretary, of which there were formerly two, is now eliminated. There is a large Board of Directors consisting of wellknown persons in legal, banking and industrial circles as well as in real estate and hotel management. The corporation was formed to better economic conditions in New York State by means of legislation and to reduce the cost of government. A number of affiliated councils have been established in the State of New York, each of which donate to the support of the parent council.

NY file No. 100-21056

Branch offices are maintained in both Utica and Albany. Council operates on an equal budget plan and is supported by donations. It also appears that its bank connections are with the Guaranty Trust Company.

Confidential Informant [redacted] revealed a report dated September 18, 1942 on MERWIN K. HART, [redacted] with residence at 10 West 55th Street, New York City, with a former address at Windship Road, New Hartford, New York. He and his wife had lived at 10 West 55th Street for two years and paid \$70 a month rent. They are rated as satisfactory tenants according to the landlord and also reported to own a summer home in Old Forge, New York. HART is an attorney and President of the New York State Economic Council Incorporated and has been identified with subject Council since its inception about 15 years ago. It appears further that his personal banking connection is with the Grand Central Branch of the Chase National Bank.

Confidential Informant [redacted] continued with information concerning the New York State Economic Council itself which report is dated April 7, 1941 and stated that the officers were listed as follows:

MERWIN K. HART, President
THOMAS D. PETERS, Vice President
ARCHIBALD EWING STEVENSON, Vice President
ALEXANDER D. FOLCK, Vice President
COLONEL ARTHUR F. COSBY, Secretary
LAWRENCE B. ELLIMAN, Treasurer
WILLIAM WILLOWS MORGAN, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

It is stated further that this organization was incorporated under the membership laws of the State of New York, on September 15, 1931 and at that time its headquarters were 405 Lexington Avenue, New York City. On October 1, 1933 they moved to 17 East 42nd Street and then in 1940 moved to 505 Fifth Avenue. This latter address is described as a small three room unit. HART is an attorney and has offices in Utica, New York and recently gained considerable prominence as an outspoken critic of the present national administration. He appears well regarded in his profession.

More detailed information concerning officers as related by Informant [redacted] shows that THOMAS D. PETERS is a retired financier and was formerly an officer in the Publicity Department under the National Recovery Act.

ALEXANDER D. FOLCK is a married man in his 50s, very wealthy and is Vice President of the Corning Glass Company, Corning, New York.

ARCHIBALD EWING STEVENSON is also married, in his 50s and a very wealthy retired lawyer.

NY file No. 100-21056

COLONEL ARTHUR F. COSBY is a retired United States Army Officer and in the past was Office Manager of the Military Training Camp Association, 25 West 43rd Street and now devotes his entire activities to the New York State Economic Council.

LAWRENCE B. ELLIMAN is a married man in his 50s and President of the company, Pease and Elliman, Incorporated, prominent real estate management companies.

WILLIAM FELLOWS MORGAN is prominent local financier.

Informant [redacted] went on to state that the aim was to curb Government spending, and it appears that its income is derived solely from voluntary contributions. A regular subscription of \$1.00 and up is paid to 1500 members. A branch is maintained in the First National Bank Building, Utica, and during winter months when the Legislature is in session, a branch office is maintained in Albany. It is believed to have bank connections in New York City at the Grand Central branch of the Chase National Bank.

Confidential Informant [redacted] had considerable information to offer beginning as far back as to show that subject during World War I was a Captain in the United States Infantry; that he is a native of Utica, a graduate of Harvard in 1904, a member of the New York State Legislature from 1907 to 1910, a licensed aviator and a patron of aviation. Shortly after that subject HART was employed representing employers of the State Industrial Survey Commission, which was having hearings on labor troubles and related matters through the 1920s. He was apparently against all substantial changes affecting the ordinary way of life against labor agitators, and strongly in favor of cutting the budget during the depression. He likewise opposed the job insurance.

In December, 1932 his name was carried as a member of the New York State Budget Advisory Committee. In April, 1933, according to newspaper articles he advocated control of industries by Trade Groups as a substitute for rigid Government rules. Under date of February 5, 1934 he openly opposed the Lawrence Waterway Project. There are many other references concerning economics, budget, labor, etc.

In September, 1937 it appears that he was Chairman of the Church Laymen's Association of the Protestant-Episcopal Church, which was opposed to Church League for Industrial Democracy, and in a letter dated October 3, 1927 said "rise in revolt against the forces of destruction of the Roosevelt administration."

In November, 1937 he accused the CIO American Newspapermen's Guild of "terrorizing" the Brooklyn Daily Eagle which was then involved in a labor strike.

On October 12, 1938 a news article appeared in the Herald Tribune stating that HART had just returned from an extended trip in Nationalistic Spain where on September 25, 1938 he was interviewed by GENERAL THE COUNT DE FRANCESCO GOMEZ, Minister of foreign affairs and Vice President of the Council of Ministers of the Franco Government, the Burgos. HART is reported to have said that "mediation" is impossible in the Spanish War. Thereafter appeared a series of articles by HART in the Herald Tribune, dated October 30, 1938, November 6, and November 13, all favoring FRANCO'S cause in Spain.

In the letter dated June 9, 1940 to the New York Times HART stated that America should arm but not declare war as she was not ready.

A notice appeared in the New York Times under date of November 29, 1939, concerning the Dies Rally in Madison Square Garden, of which HART was Chairman. He opened the meeting at which an estimated 10 to 12 thousand people were present. There was no trouble in this matter. DIES' text was that America should stop its spying of Europe.

On May 22, 1939 HART'S book "America Looks at Spain" was announced.

b7c On February 21, 1939 in the Times an article appeared in which FRANCO thanked the Americans through HART for aid given, and on December 9, 1939 a news article appeared indicating that FRTIZ KUHN, German American Bund leader was an uninvited guest at a luncheon at a meeting of the New York State Economic Council at the Hotel Biltmore. It was estimated that 700 people attended that meeting. HART was Chairman and Congressman DIES spoke.

During the course of his speech DIES denounced the German American Bund.

Under date of November 21, 1940 a speech was made at Town Hall, New York City by HAROLD ICKES, Secretary of the Interior, in which he warned America of propagandists and included as typical propagandists, MERWIN K. HART, [REDACTED] LAWRENCE DENNIS, CHARLES A. LINDBERGH.

In another speech on December 17, 1939 by Secretary ICKES, at Columbia University, ICKES called subject a native Fascist. On December 19, 1942 the press reported that subject demanded that ICKES publicly retract his charges. ICKES replied that he would retract his statement if HART ceased talking like a Fascist. Whereupon HART accused ICKES of distortion.

On January 5, 1941 a two-page article appeared in the newspaper "P.M." which reported an interview by a "P.M." reporter, WILLARD WEINER, with subject. This article was preceded by a two-page banner headline stating "Portrait of a Native American Who Has No Use For Democracy." WEINER'S interview conceded that HART is a gentleman and that HART had told WEINER that there were 2,000 members of the New York State Economic Council, and that a bi-monthly economic letter goes to 17,000 people. HART also said that he belonged to the Masons. This article then goes on to restate information that has previously been recounted through the efforts of Confidential Informant T5. ✓

From the files of Confidential Informant T5, an article was produced, dated June 12, 1941 in the newspaper "P.M." which accused subject of being the most important Fascist link bringing together COUGHLINITES and businessmen in the Christian Front.

In a letter to the editor of the Times, dated January 6, 1942 subject admits that he had originally urged America to keep out of war prior to December 7, 1941 but he now says in substance that since we are at war, the war effort should be wholly supported, and says that President ROOSEVELT has rightly called for unity. He goes on, however, and criticizes actual unity with any other nation except the unity of naval and military matters. His concluding paragraphs states "I am for the fullest prosecution of the war, and for American defense first, and then for fullest aid to our allies. I want America to win because I love my country. I am against all the enemies of the United States, but I am eternally opposed to merging the United States with any other nations, and to bring this up now will rightly arouse opposition among Americans."

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In a letter dated January 8, 1942 to the editor of the Herald Tribune, subject said in substance much the same as appeared in the preceding paragraph but goes on to say that there should not now be useless arguing between former isolationists and interventionists, but the main object is to win the war.

The records of the New York City Police Department were searched by Special Agent [REDACTED] with negative results.

From the files of Confidential Informant T6 it appears that [REDACTED] in the Officers [REDACTED] was of August 24, 1942. [REDACTED] born [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and recently in conversation was reported to have indicated his opinion that a government, Fascist in character would be satisfactory. [REDACTED] was reported to have been pro-Franco during the Spanish Civil War. Informant T6 also indicated [REDACTED] was recently visited by [REDACTED] former German commentator.

Concerning HART, SR., T6 states that he has strong pro-Nazi sympathies and that together with HARRY B. PRICE, Executive Secretary of the American Committee Regarding Japanese Aggression, was active in organizing the Society of Peter the Great (White Russians), the American Union for Nationalist Spain, the Irish American Friends for Indian Independence, the Indian Independence League, and the American Committee for Non-participation in Japanese Aggression. HART, SR. is also reported to be interested in the American Patriots and has been in contact with Major WILLIAM RICH, General MOSELY, Major KELLY and [REDACTED]. He is also interested in the activities of GLOSS EDWARDS' "Committee for the Preservation of American Principles," and a paper known as the "Constitutionist", edited by her [REDACTED].

Informant T6 characterized HART, SR. as a propagandist, and states that

NY file No. 100-21056

it is reported that he is against the administration, anti-Semitic and anti-British and it further appears that he has been in contact with FRITZ KUHN, COLONEL 'SANCTUARY, and WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY.

According to Informant T6 under date of September 22, 1942 subject's name appeared on a list of purported members of the "Spanish Falange" who are sympathetic to the Axis. This list was received from a confidential source.

Confidential Informant T7 was contacted by Special Agent [REDACTED] who advised the only record of subject was that he was reported as an associate of Major JOHN E. KELLY, who was known as a pro-Fascist. This information is dated January 27, 1941. Confidential Informant T7 has no other information concerning HART but he does have numerous references on JOHN E. KELLY.

At 10 West 55th Street, it was noted that HART had recently moved away and there was apparently no resident janitor. However, [REDACTED] at this address, was contacted and stated that he knew subject only slightly, but that he was a quiet, conservative man engaged in no unusual activities and further advised that one, [REDACTED] was the part-time janitor of this building. [REDACTED] stated that he saw HART only a few times, knew nothing concerning him, and that HART had two and a half rooms when living at 10 West 55th Street; that his wife lived with him and occasionally his son, who was apparently in the uniform of a soldier, visited him.

At 141 East 56th Street, HART'S present address, in New York City, [REDACTED] stated the name of this apartment building was the Lexington House, and that HART and his wife had moved into apartment 4G about September 27, 1942. [REDACTED] also said that HART'S brother worked for the renting agents of this house, Brown, Wheelock, Harris and Stevens. Subject has only been in the building a short while and has given him no trouble and is described as quiet, conservative, and to [REDACTED] knowledge there have been no gatherings or unusual visitors at the apartment. [REDACTED] did say that there were a number of refugee families getting into this building.

[REDACTED] with offices at 14 East 47th Street, stated that [REDACTED] used to be a real estate broker and is now a rent collector for Brown, Wheelock, Harris and Stevens, working out of the 67 Wall Street office. [REDACTED] related that subject in his present location is occupying a three room apartment with his wife, paying an annual rent of \$1110 a year, and gave as references [REDACTED] at 10 West 55th Street, whose present address is 322 East 59th Street; The Chase National Bank, Grand Central Branch; Brooks Brothers, Madison Avenue; [REDACTED] secretary Vick Chemical Company, New York City; [REDACTED]

At the main office of Brown, Wheelock, Harris and Stevens, 67 Wall Street,

NY file No. 100-21056

New York City, [REDACTED], stated he had no information concerning subject but did state that subject's [REDACTED] was formerly a prosperous real estate broker and who later was down on his luck, and is presently employed as a rent collector and collects rent for the Lexington House where subject is presently living.

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At 505 Fifth Avenue, the present location of the New York State Economic Council, Confidential Informant [REDACTED] stated the Council has been here for over a year and occupies one half of the fourth floor. He has three girl employees, but he does not know just what business they are in. He said he had noticed particularly that there was little if any freight or packages going in or coming up and there are little or no visitors. HART was described as a quiet, conservative type and does not talk to Informant [REDACTED] except to bid him good morning and good evening. [REDACTED] has no reason to believe that HART is anything but loyal to the United States and it is noted that HART has said that he wished the war was over. Last month, September, for the first time it was necessary for [REDACTED] to press subject for the rent money and at that time HART explained that his financial condition is not so good. During the recent scrap metal drive HART through the New York State Economic Council, contributed to the scrap drive and the three girls in the office seemed to appear very patriotic. One thing that [REDACTED] did note, there were innumerable newspapers in HART'S office from which it appears that a great many clippings are taken, possibly in connection with the New York State Economic Council's activities. There is no printing done on the premises.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] stated HART has been at 505 Fifth Avenue for over a year and has been a very satisfactory tenant, and there have been no unusual activities. A lease was arranged by COLONEL COSBY who is Treasurer of the Council at the time the lease was executed. [REDACTED] referred to HART as being very intelligent, quiet, and very polite. The work is believed to be of an economic nature and he thought that HART was a paid lobbyist for certain industrialists who are interested in keeping taxes at a minimum. He also said that there were a number of prominent individuals of New York City on the New York State Economic Council Board of Directors. [REDACTED] was in possession of a late issue of the Economic Letter in which a long article appeared, written by LAWRENCE B. ELLIMAN, entitled, "The Plight of Real Estate", in which ELLIMAN stated that excessive taxation would ruin real estate values. There did not appear to be any statements of a subversive or propaganda nature in this issue as reviewed by agent.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] on interview stated that he had been engaged for a great many years in the business of raising funds for reputable organizations, institutions, and schools, and that he had a contract 10 or 12 years ago to raise money for the New York State Economic Council. He has heard of the Council intermittently since then, but has known it only as a purely economic venture and knew nothing of HART'S international views.

NY file No. 100-21056

Confidential Informant [redacted] stated that the New York State Economic Council had an account at the Guaranty Trust Company, 140 Broadway, New York City, which account was closed July 25, 1934. This account was only at the main office and did not appear that there was any account at any of the branch banks. When the account was in existence, it was in care of [redacted] of the Guaranty Trust Company. [redacted], however, is no longer with the bank. It did not appear that there had ever been any personal account in the name of MERWIN K. HART.

Confidential Informant [redacted] stated that on November 8, 1933 an account was opened at the Grand Central branch of the Chase National Bank in the name of MERWIN K. HART. This was a checking account and still is a checking account, in which there is no unusual activity. The average balance for 1940 was \$200, for 1941, \$200, and the average balance so far this year averages around \$1,000.

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Informant [redacted] also volunteered information that it appeared an account had been opened in the name of American Union For Nationalist Spain, which was a small "in and out" account existing during the Spanish Civil War. It was opened for one year and was closed out in 1939. Its highest balance was \$300 and the annual average balance was \$100. Miss HILDRETH MUIRE was Treasurer of the corporation and its purpose was "to interpret true facts of Spain to the American people."

Informant [redacted] also indicated that there was an existing account since 1934 in the name of the New York State Economic Council and that its average balance for 1940 was \$200, for 1941 \$200, and that in 1942 it had a high of \$1500 in January, a high of \$1400 in February, but the balance for October is only \$200. WILLIAM C. BREID is listed as Chairman of the Board and the analysis of account's report indicated that nearly everything in the Council account goes out in salary and expenses of the office, and very little expenditure for anything else. There was no record of any foreign transactions.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that their firm audited the New York State Economic Council account a few years ago. He revealed that HART'S salary at present is about \$10,000 a year, and that one third of the money of the Council goes for HART'S salary alone. In 1938 \$40,000 was taken in by contributions, etc. but the report stated there was no verification made of contributors. T13 was of the opinion that HART is a money maker and probably associated with the various movements that he is identified with solely for the revenue involved. H V

Confidential Informant [redacted] stated that she first met HART during the winter of 1938-1939 at a party at the home of [redacted] of the famous [redacted] of China. HART at that time had just returned from Spain. [redacted] had just returned from Munich and was disgusted with the Chamberlain appeasement policy. She thereafter disliked HART'S theories from

NY file No. 100-21056

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the start. For quite some time HART continued to send her a copy of his Economic Letter, which she said she tore up and refused to pay any attention to it. According to [REDACTED] HART has constantly criticized the ROOSEVELT administration; is violently anti-Communist; has said that HITLER has done some good things for Germany; that the German American Bund is a harmless organization; and that the Franco Policy is satisfactory. She said further, however, that since December 7, 1941 HART has been openly advocating unity with America. He confines his criticism now only to Government spending and then only to expenditures which are not for the war effort. However, she believes he is still a Fascist in his theories of Government but is smart enough to hold his tongue now. She said that a while ago he was so anti-Communist he was literally seeing "a Communist under every chair." She believes he might still be regarded as dangerous in that his constant criticisms creates a disturbing element. She does not believe that he is subsidized by foreign funds. She said further that HART had told her in the past of attending some Bund meetings simply to find out what went on in the meetings. [REDACTED] was of the opinion that HART'S theories are too extreme, and that HART has been and in her opinion still is against labor agitation.

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Later [REDACTED] addressed a letter to reporting agent in which she enclosed a copy of the New York State Economic Council Letter, dated October 1, 1942 which letter had been sent to a friend of hers by HART. This letter is written wholly by HART and states in substance that the Executive Department of the Federal Government has the supreme responsibility of winning or losing the war because of the powers given it, and that there is lacking an enthusiasm on the part of the people. He goes on to quote RAYMOND CLAPPER, the Scripps Howard columnist, as saying, "For the first time since I have been reporting in Washington I believe we are in danger of going over to dictatorship." HART continues that the President could dissipate this fear; that Congress is also to blame for delegating most of its powers to the President, and that the Judiciary has strengthened this fear because it is simply a co-operating agency of the Executive, and that the people in general have let things go by default. He does say, however, that since we are at war, we should willingly give to the Commander-in-Chief every power he needs to raise, train, equip, supply and command invincible military, naval, and air forces, and as Commander-in-Chief we all must give him implicit obedience and unswerving support. But having done that, and even while doing it, we must not neglect the defenses of liberty at home. He thereupon advocates that citizens should constitute "a pressure group" with its object to point out to Congress its duty; to reassert its independence from the Executive; to make it once more the sole national law-making body of our country. HART also warned against inflation as being our greatest enemy and wants legislation directing the President to put his whole 7-Point Program into operation. He then advocates elimination of wasteful Government expenditures, etc., and some Executive means of keeping down the national debt.

A copy of this letter is being marked as an exhibit and is being placed in the jacket attached to this file.

- P E N D I N G -

NY file No. 100-21056

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE ALBANY FIELD DIVISION:

At UTICA, NEW YORK.

Will attempt to discover any activity of the New York State Economic Council other than of a purely economic nature. The office is believed located in the First Bank Building, Utica, New York.

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

Will report the result of the mail cover placed on subject and the New York State Economic Council.

Will contact [REDACTED] at 10 West 55th Street, HART'S former address. He may be seen almost any day after 5 P.M.

Will recontact Confidential Informant [REDACTED] for the result of the trash coverage agreed to and for any further observation of subject made by T8.

Will recontact Confidential Informant [REDACTED] for the result of his further observation of subject and for the result of the trash coverage agreed to.

Will recontact Confidential Informant [REDACTED] for any further information he may have to offer as a result of his contacting mutual friends of subject.

Will recontact Confidential Informant [REDACTED] for the results of further observations of subject, together with [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS.

Confidential informants mentioned in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] made at New York City, dated November 17, 1942, are:

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

During the present investigation it was learned that [REDACTED] having moved from [REDACTED]. It is noted that Assistant Director E. J. Connelley has written a memorandum in this informant's file prohibiting any further contact.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-5 -

New York Times Morgue.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-6 -

Information from Military Intelligence as contained in New York Field Division files.

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NY file No. 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS.

Particularly from a letter from G2, dated August 24, 1942, and also from a letter from G2, dated September 22, 1942, contained in file 100-25327-163, which is the investigative file on "Spanish Falange".

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-7 - Office of Naval Intelligence.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

NY file No. 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED]

- Firm of Barrow, Wade, Guthrie
Company, 120 Broadway, New
York City [REDACTED]

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
New York City.
Vice Chairman of the
Foreign Relations Department,
of the New York City League
of Women Voters, also
member of the Woodrow Wilson
Foundation.

NEWYORK, NEW YORK

STL:JB
100-21056

November 20, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/KC/PL

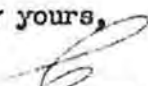
RE: MERVIN K. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated November 6th, 1942, Bureau File 100-120334, requesting to be advised when a report will be submitted in this matter.

Please be advised that a pending report in this case has been dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED] entitled MERVIN K. HART, INTERNAL SECURITY G, and should be received at the Bureau very shortly.

Very truly yours,


P. E. FOXWORTH,
Assistant Director

100-21056-17 215

607 U.S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, New York

STL:GMP
100-21056

December 3rd, 1942

b7c
[REDACTED]
The Woodrow Wilson Foundation
8 West 40th Street
New York, New York

RECEIVED
info
RE: MERWIN K. HART

Dear [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter with enclosures, received at this office on December 2nd, 1942. You may be sure this matter will be given appropriate attention.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/00 BY 60267 HES/ccc/gh

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P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

100-21056-18
info

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

EFC:DD
100-21056

January 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Re: MERWIN K. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

During the course of an interview had with [REDACTED] law firm of STERN & RUBENS, 551 Fifth Avenue on December 28, 1942, [REDACTED] offered the use of the complete file of his office relative to subject of instant case. This is being pointed out as from a brief review of this office file, it is the opinion of the writer that there may be a possible violation of the Registration Act against subject of instant file.

It is suggested that the Agent handling this case interview [REDACTED] as he is at the present time conducting a very thorough investigation relative to the subject of this file, his background, associates, activities and alleged distribution of pro-Axis propaganda in this country. b7c b7D

[REDACTED] as a member of the law firm of STERN & RUBENS, is representing Mr. BIRKHEAD and REX STOUT, defendants in a libel suit brought against them by subject for \$1,000,000.

Submitted by

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/00 BY 60267 NLS/CLC/pch

[REDACTED]
Special Agent



100-21056-19 nls

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NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.
505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

OFFICERS

Telephone: Murray Hill 2-1635

MERWIN K. HART
President

Dec. 22, 1942

ARCHIBALD EWING STEVENSON
Vice-President and Assistant Treasurer

ROBERT L. BARROWS
Secretary

A. MARGARET SCHMID
Field Secretary

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60467 DLS/ucjfk

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

For a number of years I have been under constant attack by leftists, primarily, I believe, because I was outspoken against Communism in this country. I paid no attention to what they said until after we entered the war.

But when I was called a "Quisling" by some of them I thought it was time to do something. So I have brought a libel action against Friends of Democracy; its President, Rex Stout; its National Director, Rev. L. M. Birkhead; and a member of its National Committee, Arthur J. Goldsmith.

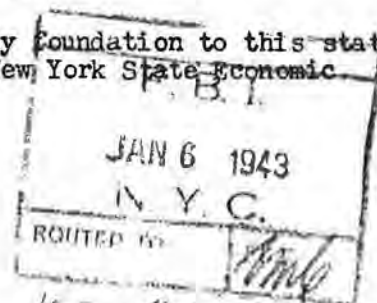
100-189810

By doing this I have afforded the fullest opportunity to probe for the basis of these attacks and to uncover the sources of their inspiration. You may be sure I would not have done this if I had anything to conceal.

Recently I received a note from a casual acquaintance which said:

"Friend Birkhead has two new explanations on how he is going to handle the matter of your suit. He has already conferred at length, he says, with agents of the F. B. I. and is helping them to prepare a case against you. He is certain that you will be behind bars before the case comes to trial."

Of course, I do not know whether there is any foundation to this statement. But if there is anything about me or the New York State Economic



Council that your Bureau wishes to learn, our records and files are open to you and you may count on our fullest cooperation to make them available to you.

With the best of Christmas greetings,

Sincerely yours

s/ Merwin K. Hart

Merwin K. Hart

MKH/w

TRUE COPY

100-128996

January 5, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/17/00 BY 60267 NLS/mc/jcl

100-21056
Mr. Merwin K. Hart
New York State Economic Council, Inc.
505 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

In the absence of the Director, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 22, 1942, and to advise you that the information you furnished is being made a part of the official files of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Clyde Tolson

Clyde Tolson
Assistant to the Director

cc New York (with copies of incoming) ✓

100-128996	
F. B. I.	
JAN 6 1943	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	<i>mb</i>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N.Y.**

FILE NO. **100-558 jmo**

REPORT MADE AT ALBANY, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 1/22/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/16, 18/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE MERWIN K. HART alias MERVIN K. HART			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject comes from old and influential family in Utica. Family very wealthy at one time but lost heavily in stock market crash. Subject's wife recently inherited approximately one half million dollars from her father. Subject well known and respected by businessmen in Utica but not personally popular. Considered very sincere and 100% American. Very much opposed to Communism or Dictatorship form of government. Very outspoken and tactless. Is considered somewhat of a reformer and is a staunch supporter of the Republican Party. New York Economic Council supported by subscriptions of businessmen in New York State originally confined itself to activities of economy and state government, but in recent years has taken interest in economy and federal government. Utica office of Council managed by subject's stenographer. Very little activity in office, used by subject on infrequent visits to Utica.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 PLS/ELC/pdt

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 11/17/42, at New York City.

DETAILS: AT UTICA, NEW YORK

In the 1942 - 1943 New York Bell Telephone Company Directory, for the City of Utica, New York, the New York State Economic Council is shown to have an office in the First National Bank Building in Utica. It was ascertained through [REDACTED] of the First National Bank Building that the New York State Economic Council has maintained offices in rooms 903 - 904 of the building for approximately ten years. [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - NY 1 - ONI 1 - G-2 2 - Albany		F. B. I. 10 JAN 25 1943 N. Y. C. [REDACTED] FILE	100 - 21056 - 22

[redacted] stated that to his knowledge the only person regularly in this office is one [redacted] added that he has known Mr. MERWIN K. HART, President of the New York State Economic Council since HART was a boy. At one time both Mr. HART and [redacted] were Directors in the First National Bank of Utica, which bank is not now in existence.

To [redacted] knowledge, there is very little activity in the Utica office of the Council and he passes along the hallway by that office ten to fifteen times each day and never sees anybody enter or leave it. On numerous occasions [redacted] has contacted [redacted] and has advised him she would be out of town for four or five days and the office would be closed until she returns. At times they have fallen in arrears in the rent as long as six months, and when he would remind [redacted] of the overdue obligation she immediately contacted Mr. HART in New York City and a check in full payment would be received within a few days. The rental for the office space is \$60 per month.

At infrequent intervals of not more than once per month, Mr. HART would come to Utica, and on such occasions would make the office his headquarters. [redacted] never appears to be very busy, and does some typing. Once in a while when there is more work, another typist comes in to help [redacted] described [redacted] as a very intelligent and clever individual.

b7c In regard to the subject, MERWIN K. HART, [redacted] stated that HART came from one of the old established families in Utica and was a brilliant and well educated man, had taken an active part in numerous business enterprises in Utica, and was a member of one of the leading law firms in Utica. [redacted] however, added that he was always puzzled over Mr. HART'S activities in the law firm of HART, SENIOR, and NICHOLS, as he does not recall Mr. HART ever going to law school and never heard of him appearing in court.

[redacted] respectively, of the UTICA OBSERVER DISPATCH, upon being interviewed, stated that Mr. HART'S name has appeared in public print on numerous occasions; being the head of the New York State Economic Council, he undoubtedly felt he had to obtain all the publicity for himself and the Council in order to show the paid members that he was earning his salary. [redacted] stated that HART did not appear to care what type of publicity he received, as quite a bit of it was unfavorable to HART.

The following bits of information concerning Mr. HART of the New York State Economic Council was obtained from a "clipping" file maintained by the OBSERVER DISPATCH:

Mr. HART was born June 21, 1881; graduated from Harvard in 1904 with an A. B. Degree. He was elected to the General Assembly of the State of New York for a two year term in 1906. He married CATHERINE MARGARET CROUSE of Utica, New York, in 1909; was admitted to practice law in 1911; and served

in the United States Army during the first World War. The following is an excerpt from an article appearing in the Utica OBSERVER DISPATCH dated March 18, 1931:

"The New York State Economic Council, which has been active in the business and political life of the State for some time, was incorporated here today Its purpose is to stimulate and develop the economic life of the State of New York, to encourage government, both state and local, to practice wise economy....."

[REDACTED] Utica Credit Bureau, Inc., advised that he grew up with the subject and knew him to be a very intelligent man; formerly an executive in the firm of HART and CROUSE of Utica, New York, manufacturers of furnaces and heating equipment. HART has always been active in governmental affairs, and at one time was elected to a term in the State Assembly. [REDACTED] explained that HART was a very influential and respected man in the community, but had very few intimate personal friends, being the type who knew "everybody that counted" and who was very formal and aloof in his manner. While he was not disliked by the businessmen in Utica, he is not at all personally popular with them.

[REDACTED] stated that the New York State Economic Council was organized by HART about 10 years ago, and that he, HART, has been successful in selling the idea to the manufacturers and financial concerns in New York State to the extent that he is now devoting his full time to affairs of the Council, for which he receives an annual salary of approximately \$10,000, which in turn is approximately one quarter the gross income of the Council.

b7c [REDACTED] said that he did not follow the activities of the Council very closely but remembers seeing HART's name in the papers on numerous occasions. He has received circular mail from the Council and copies of the bi-monthly letter which is prepared by HART and mailed to the members of the Council. [REDACTED] has also received letters soliciting membership in the Council. He, however, has never taken out membership in the organization as he was unable to see where such membership could benefit him in any way. [REDACTED] understood that most of the manufacturers and financial institutions in the city of Utica were members of the Council, and he was certain that there is nothing of a subversive nature in the activities of the Council or of HART himself.

HART, having come from a wealthy and influential family, believes in the capitalistic system and is particularly opposed to Communism. [REDACTED] explained that in politics HART has always been a staunch Republican, and loses no opportunity to criticize the present administration, particularly in regard to its spending policies. [REDACTED] concluded that he is certain that HART is entirely loyal to this country, but due to his criticism of some of President ROOSEVELT's policies and his ability to create enemies for himself, and getting unfavorable publicity, some people who do not know HART

or his background might think he was opposed to this country's war aims.

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b7D [redacted] stated that he has known HART for "years and years" and there is not the slightest doubt in his mind concerning HART's loyalty or patriotism. He expected that HART is tied in close with very prominent people, and since the New York State Economic Council is supported solely by contributions from these people who represent the industrial and monied classes in New York State, his statements and activities must meet with their approval or they would withdraw their support.

At the same time [redacted] was of the opinion that HART was not personally popular, even among these people, for the reason that he is too outspoken, tactless, and bullheaded. He described HART as a slight, thin fellow, but possessed of a "ponderous complex." During the last World War HART had a commission in some non-combatant corps of the United States Army. He further described HART as a restless type, having tried several fields of endeavor, with varying degrees of success. First he tried politics, just a few years after graduating from college, and was elected to a term in the New York State Assembly. His success in being elected to that position at the age of 25 or 26 apparently went to his head, as he immediately adopted an air of importance and aloofness, with the result that he did not receive his party's nomination at the next election, although his record in the Assembly was very good. HART also practiced law; managed the business of HART and CROUSE COMPANY, a heating equipment and furnace manufacturing company in Utica; and had some connection with local banks and insurance companies.

Previous to the work of the New York State Economic Council, HART was active in numerous movements on the part of various groups to reduce expenditures by the State of New York. After the Economic Council began to be fairly well established, HART devoted his entire time to its affairs. Confidential Source A stated that he himself was not a member of the New York Economic Council, but was closely associated with several businessmen who were members. He added that HART is possessed with a peculiar type of personality, and he had very few close friends.

On one occasion HART brought [redacted] to Utica to make a speech on "Isolationism." This was a year or more before the United States entered the war. This affair was not well attended by Uticans. HART was not personally popular among his associates, not because of his views, but because of his personal and apparent aloofness. b7C

[redacted] stated that it was his recollection that HART had played a major role in organizing the Utica Mutual Insurance Company previous to the First World War, and that JOHN R. TRAIN, who has been the President

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of the Utica Mutual since its organization, was one of HART's closest friends and would probably be more familiar with the purposes and activities of the New York State Economic Council than any other person in Utica. While he knew that the Economic Council maintained a local office in Utica, [REDACTED] did not know what function was performed by this office other than to provide a local mailing address and headquarters for HART when he came to town.

[REDACTED] has known the subject, MERWIN A. HART for the past thirty years and said that if there was one man in this country who was in favor of the Democratic form of government, as opposed to dictatorship and Communism in particular, that man was HART. [REDACTED] related to the writer in considerable detail his association with and knowledge of HART's background, which he concluded was certainly convincing proof that HART was a patriotic and loyal American citizen. At the present time HART's oldest son is in Officer's Training School in the United States Army, and his younger son is in the foreign service of the United States in Argentina, South America. HART himself has frequently expressed the desire to [REDACTED] to get into some more active phase of war work himself.

b7c

[REDACTED] first contact with HART was in 1914 when HART and several prominent businessmen in Utica organized the Utica Mutual Insurance Company, the primary purpose of which organization was to reduce the cost of industrial insurance. Although HART was a lawyer at that time and was a member of the newly formed law firm of HART and SENIOR, Mr. SENIOR performed practically all of the work incident to organizing the insurance company, and the firm of HART and SENIOR has been general counsel for the insurance company from that time to the present day. A few years later when the United States entered the war, HART enlisted in the Army. He was at first rejected due to defective sight, but was later accepted for non-combatant duty. When HART was released from the Army in 1918, he had obtained the rank of Captain.

[REDACTED] added that HART was a "lightning thinker and never hesitated to place himself on record on any controversial matter." [REDACTED] explained that he was a contributing member of the New York State Economic Council, although he did not always agree with HART's opinions, but generally approved of them, and if HART was considered subversive as a result of his statements, then he, [REDACTED] should also be considered subversive.

When HART entered the army in 1916 - 1917, he gave up any financial interest in the law firm of HART and SENIOR and has never been active in the firm since that time. After the war was over in 1918, HART devoted several years attempting to place the HART and CROUSE COMPANY in Utica on a sound financial basis. This firm, which manufactures furnaces and heating equipment, was founded by HART's father and HART's wife's father, whose maiden name was CROUSE. CROUSE had mediocre success in that company, and although the company is still known by the name of HART and CROUSE, neither the HART family and the CROUSE family have any financial interest or connection with the company.

[redacted] was of the opinion that HART was not out out to be a businessman, and is not particularly well suited for the field of endeavor that he was now engaged in. [redacted] described the New York State Economic Council as a lobbying organization whose primary purpose was to reduce state expenditures. Until the past four or five years, it confined its activities to the New York State financial problems, but since that time has taken a stand against inefficiency and waste in the federal government. It was [redacted] opinion that the whole organization, including [redacted] who manages the Utica office, and Mr. HART himself, amounted to about only six individuals. He did not know the purpose or function of the Utica office, although he believed it was mainly to provide a Utica mailing address and headquarters for HART when HART came to town. [redacted] has been in the employ of Mr. HART as his stenographer for the past 30 years, and [redacted] believes that she does some of Mr. HART's research work.

b7c [redacted] described HART as a wonderful worker, possessing a surprising amount of energy, and probably knows more "big" men in New York City than any other person. His name first became prominent in public print when he was crusading against the use of RUGGS TEXTBOOKS in the New York State School System, HART claiming that these textbooks contained Communistic propaganda. HART was quite successful in this campaign and the textbooks have been removed from a great number of schools throughout the State. [redacted] further stated that HART's record shows that he has had the unpopular side of many controversial issues. The reason for this is that HART never hesitates to place himself on record and make his opinions known. At times HART has mentioned to [redacted] that he was planning to again run for some public office. [redacted] however, stated that he has consistently tried to discourage HART in these plans, as he does not believe that HART has the proper personality to be a successful politician. As for ability, however, [redacted] stated that HART would have no lack of ability. [redacted] concluded by stating that there is no question whatsoever in his mind as to HART's patriotism and loyalty. He can state positively that the aims and activities of the New York State Economic Council are anything but subversive.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

100-558

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION

[REDACTED]

b2
b7C
b7D

9 9
New York, New York

EFC:DD
100-14280

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60627WIS/KUP/L

January 6, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: SPANISH LIBRARY OF INFORMATION
INTERNAL SECURITY - S

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the telephone call to the New York Field Division on December 28, 1942 by Mr. Mumford of the Bureau, concerning a request made to the Department by STERN & RUBENS, a law firm at 1 East 45th Street or 551 Fifth Avenue, New York City, for information regarding the registration certificate of the SPANISH LIBRARY OF INFORMATION and JOHN, EDWARD KELLY. [redacted] requested that STERN & RUBENS be contacted to determine their interest in the above agency and individual.

b7c [redacted] firm of STERN & RUBENS was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] relative to the above request. He advised that HERWIN K. HART had instituted a libel suit for \$1,000,000 against [redacted] L. M. BIRNHEAD and REX STOTT, National Director and President, respectively, of the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC., 103 Park Avenue, New York City, in the Oneida County Supreme Court, Utica, New York.

Mr. HART has charged his good name, reputation, etc., had suffered considerably since he was accused by Mr. BIRNHEAD and Mr. STOTT in a pamphlet edited by them under the name of the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC., as being one of a group of "American Quislings, pro-Nazi and pro-Axis propagandists".

[redacted] was interested in securing the requested information to strengthen their defense, in view of HART's close friendship with KELLY, who he stated was known to be one of the most active Spanish propagandists in this country, and he wished to show in court the close friendship and collaboration between HART and KELLY in furthering Spanish activity in this country.

During the interview it was learned that HERWIN HART has established residence in Utica, New York, and operates a law office there. No further information concerning KELLY could be secured from [redacted] Copies of the proceedings in the libel suit to this date were secured and are being made part of the New York case file 100-21056, entitled "HERWIN K. HART, INTERNAL SECURITY - G".

100 21056-22

Letter to Director
N.Y. File No. 100-14280

b7D
b7C

January 6, 1942

[REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

cc: N.Y. File 100-21056 ✓
65-1969

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

100-128996

Date: January 26, 1943

To: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

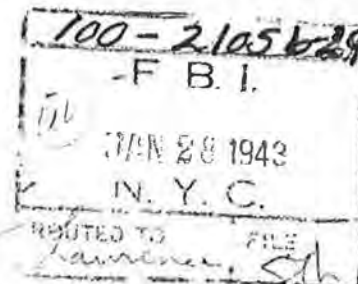
Subject: MERVIN K. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

b7c

It is desired that the leads set out in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated November 17, 1942, at New York City, be given early investigative attention and that reports be submitted by both offices in the near future.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/CUC/pk

cc Albany



PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1943

*

10

U.S. Indicts Anti-Loyalist Kelly as Franco Agent

Accused of Failing To Register as Foreign Employe

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267NLS/LLC/p-L

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Mar. 2.—John Eoghan Kelly was a key figure in the campaign that blocked U. S. aid to Loyalist Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

He was closely, publicly associated with Merwin K. Hart, head of the New York State Economic Council, Rev. Francis X. Talbot, editor of the Jesuit weekly *America*, and others who fought to maintain the embargo. He ran mass meetings, agitated Red-fearing Park Ave. ladies, gave speeches for American Patriots, Inc. Had friendly dealings with at least one high Government official.

Kelly told the world he was doing all this to save the U. S. A. from Communism and to keep us out of war.

Now He's Indicted

But today he is under indictment by a Federal Grand Jury for failure to register as a paid representative of Gen. Franco's Government in violation of the Foreign Agents' Registration Act.

The indictment charges in effect that Kelly has been paid off for his labors in behalf of General Franco—and has neglected to mention the matter to this Government.

For at least two years before Feb. 1, 1942, the indictment asserts, Kelly was a paid agent and employe of the Spanish Library of Information—subsidized directly by the Government of Spain and a branch of Spain's National Press Bureau.

Kelly, field engineer for War Materials, Inc., a private company financed by the RFC, was arrested at Los Angeles shortly after return of the indictment.

Kelly is 50 and a consulting engineer by profession. He made several trips to Spain and Germany between 1936 and 1939, became active in the pro-Franco movement here during early stages of Spanish Civil War. He acted as a sort of intermediary between the respectable pro-Franco apologists and the street-fighting Christian Fronters.



John Eoghan Kelly

Exposed by PM

Kelly's role was exposed by PM on June 22, 1941, in a survey of New York's "Fascist Front." That issue carried copies of some of Kelly's secret correspondence:

A letter to Mrs. Ruth Shipley, chief of the Passport Division of the U. S. Government, requesting her to let Merwin K. Hart visit Franco territory during the Spanish war. Kelly said Hart's visa had been marked "Not valid in Spain." The letter concluded:

"I would greatly appreciate any help that you can give Mr. Hart and have asked him to convey my kind personal regards."

Hart made the trip.

A letter to Francis X. Talbot, editor of *America*, introducing Hart and suggesting that it would be a good idea for them to meet before Hart left for Spain.

Despite repeated demands from many groups, the Dies Committee never investigated Kelly's activities.

CLIPPING FROM "P.M."
MARCH 2 1943
S.T.H.

100-21056-45 f

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAR 2 - 1943	
NEW YORK 21056	
ROUTED TO:	FILE
	S.T.H.



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

100-128996

Date: March 4, 1943

To: SAC, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

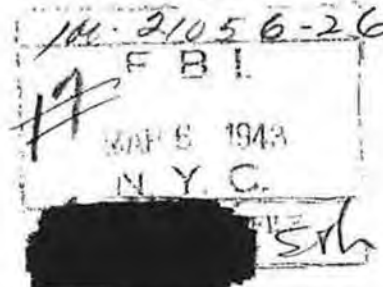
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/cue/gcl

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: MERWIN K. HART; INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Reference is made to my letter of January 26, 1943
in the instant case.

The Bureau files indicate that no report in this
case has been submitted by your office in three and a half
months. It is desired that the Bureau be advised when a
report will be submitted, reflecting a development of the
leads contained in the reports of Special Agent [REDACTED]
dated November 17, 1942, at New York City.



b7c

03 07
New York, New York

STL:GMP
100-21056

March 22nd, 1943

Director, FBI:

RE: MENDEL A. HART
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated
March 4th, 1943 (Bureau file #100-128996). b7c

Please be advised that Agent [REDACTED]
dictated a report on February 17th, 1943, and it is
expected that this report should be received by the
Bureau no later than April 1st, 1943.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/CLC/PL

smc
E. S. CONROY
SAC

100-21056-211

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-25598 EBM

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 3/2/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/22/42; 1/18; 2/6/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE THE AMERICAN UNION FOR NATIONALIST SPAIN			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - (S)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

AMERICAN UNION FOR NATIONALIST SPAIN organized, NYC, 12/38 by MERWIN K. HART, et al; purpose to interpret true facts of Spain to American people and favored the Franco Regime and lifting of the Arms Embargo to Spain. AUNS unincorporated and not chartered. Average banking balance \$100.00 per month and highest balance \$300.00. Disbanded 2/10/40. AUNS not known by ND-124. ✓

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/00 BY 60360 [signature]

- C -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated May 13, 1942, with enclosures.

Bureau file 61-10853.

DETAILS:

The investigation of this case is predicated upon information received from the Bureau which indicated that the AMERICAN

UNION FOR NATIONALIST SPAIN may be giving aid and comfort to the Spanish Nationalist group.

A review of the New York files reflects a letter addressed to the Bureau from the Special Agent in Charge at New York City dated June 26, 1939, entitled "Activities of the Fascisti". This letter reflects an interview by Special Agent [REDACTED] with confidential informant [REDACTED], who exhibited to Special Agent [REDACTED] a copy of [REDACTED]

Those being present were [REDACTED] MERWIN K. HART, president of the New York State Economic Council, Inc.; [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 1 - Capt. [REDACTED] ONI 1 - Col. [REDACTED] G-2 4 - New York (1-NY 100-21056)		100	21056	28	[signature]

[redacted] reflect that letters were received from [redacted] of the American Monthly League and [redacted] Fordham University, New York City.

[redacted] three letters were to be directed to each member of Congress urging the lifting of the Arms Embargo. b7D

It was decided [redacted] to make public wherever possible the value of the film "Spain in Arms", but that neither [redacted] would assume any financial obligations therefor. [redacted] reported that he had talked at length with Baron KONSTANTIN MAYDELL about the arrangements for showing this picture throughout the United States, and that MAYDELL had engaged [redacted] of Los Angeles, formerly engaged in distributing pictures of the Eucharistic Congress, to handle the business for him. [redacted] was also collaborating.

b7C The A.U.N.S. was eventually set up in Room 417, 17 East 42nd Street, New York City, with HART as chairman and HILDRETH MEIERE as treasurer, JOHN EOGHAN KELLY as secretary; and [redacted] HAMMOND, SEDGEWICK, WILKINSON, HART, KELLY, and Miss MEIERE.

b2 During Special Agent [redacted] interview with confidential informant b7D correspondence was exhibited showing that [redacted] New York National Guard, and [redacted] were members of the UNION and were in complete accord with the policies of the A.U.N.S. b2 b7D

Informant [redacted] had conversed with the Catholic clergy who were actively interested in the affairs of the group, and by way of explanation for the reason for the Church to attempt to set up a control, it was stated that Democracy was a little error which had been permitted to creep into world affairs; that Democracy does not give one freedom and real freedom comes from control from a properly regulated life. When life is so controlled and regulated, man enjoys freedom. A lay government is incapable of giving such control or such regulation, and it is only the Church that can do this, and it is in order to give to mankind this greater freedom that the Catholic Church seeks to set up this control.

MERWIN K. HART is subject of a New York file entitled MERWIN K. HART, with aliases, INTERNAL SECURITY - G. This file reflects that during World War One, one HART was a Captain in the United States Infantry. He was born in

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Utica, New York, and graduated from Harvard in 1904, and was a member of the New York State Legislature from 1907 to 1910. HART has a son [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HART has been active in organizing such societies as the Society of Peter the Great (White Russians), Irish American Friends For Indian Independence, Indian Independence League, American Committee for Non-Participation in Japanese Aggression and the American UNION FOR NATIONALIST SPAIN. HART is president of the New York State Economic Council, Inc., 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City. It is reported that he is outspoken against Communism and his leanings have been toward General Franco. It has been stated that HART considers Franco as being the man who is fighting the great fight for the cause of Christianity against Communism. He is the author of the book entitled "America--Look at Spain".

Confidential informant [REDACTED] made available the records of the A.U.N.S. which reflect that on January 28, 1939, [REDACTED] opened a checking account under the name of AMERICAN UNION FOR NATIONALIST SPAIN, which account was opened with an initial deposit of \$247.00 consisting of several checks, some of which were checks for \$25.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00 signed by [REDACTED] and MERWIN K. HART, respectively. [REDACTED] advised that the UNION was not incorporated and does not act under a charter or by-laws; however, the UNION operates under resolutions which had been adopted by a meeting of the Executive Committee on January 11, 1939, and that the purpose of the UNION is to interpret true facts of Spain to the American people.

Informant [REDACTED] stated that the highest balance for this account was \$300.00, and the average balance per month was \$100.00; and on February 10, 1940, Colonel ARTHUR F. COSBY, who was connected with the A.U.N.S., advised the bank that the UNION was being wound up and the account was closed on this date.

A newspaper clipping from the New York HERALD TRIBUNE dated January 28, 1939, reflects the following in substance:

RECOGNITION OF FRANCO RULE IS URGED HERE

American UNION headed by HART sends plea in letter to ROOSEVELT. The letter to President ROOSEVELT requested that the United States recognize Franco's Regime as the Government of Spain. The newspaper article went on to state that the purpose of the A.U.N.S. was to interpret the true facts about Spain to the American people. This article listed its officers, which have already been set out in this report and listed the following as members of the A.U.N.S:

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Dr. JOSEPH F. THORNING, Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg,
Maryland;

ALFRED E. SMITH, former Governor of New York;
IRWIN LAUGHLIN, former Ambassador to Spain.

b2 The letter to the President forecast victory for the Insurgents in Spain and expressed a belief that Nationalist Spain, once the war is won, will commence building a state that within ten or 15 years will become one of the greatest states in Europe (referring to the Spanish Civil War).

b7D Informant [redacted] advised that he has no record of office space for the A.U.N.S. and that MERWIN K. HART formerly occupied Room 417 of 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.

Informants [redacted] and T-5 do not have a record on the A.U.N.S.

Confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that the A.U.N.S. is no longer in existence and that he has no knowledge of this UNION aiding Franco's cause.

In view of the fact that the former chairman and organizer of the A.U.N.S., MERWIN K. HART, is subject of a pending file in this Office, and there is no indication that the organization is still in existence, this case is being closed.

- C L O S E D -

NY 100-25598

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The identities of the confidential informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated March 2, 1943, at New York City, are set forth below:

[REDACTED] New York State Economic Council, Inc., New York City.

[REDACTED] Chase National Bank, Grand Central Branch, 43rd Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City.

b7c

b7d

T-5 is CREDIT BUREAU OF GREATER NEW YORK, 393 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056 CKD**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 3/13/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/15, 20/43 2/1, 2, 4, 12, 16/43	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> b7c
TITLE MERWIN K. HART, alias, Mervin K. Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject sympathies with the Spanish Cause further discussed in regard to \$1,000,000 libel suit he brought against certain officers of "Friends of Democracy". Results of mail cover set forth. Trash coverage negative. Suspicion raised that subject's finances are very low. Some correspondence dating about time subject went to Spain in 1938 reviewed, as well as some late issues of the "New York State Economic Council Letter". Also reported, but not confirmed, that subject went to Brazil in 1936 for the purpose of enlisting the support of the Catholic Clergy on the side of FRANCO in Spain. Investigation being continued.

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/22/00 BY 60367ms/acc/pl

REFERENCES: Bureau File 100-128996.

Report of Special Agent dated
at New York, New York 11/17/42.

b7c

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center;">b7c</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 1 - Capt. <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> ONI 1 - Col. <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> G-2 2 - Albany (information) 2 - Washington Field ③ - New York		100-21056-29	

NY 100-21056

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Confidential Informant [redacted] stated that there has been no activity of any importance that has come to his attention during the last few months, except for the fact that subject now appears to have four girls employed in his office instead of three. There are few, if any, visitors and he has not seen CHARLES A. LINDBERGH around there recently although subject is known to be on most friendly terms with him. There was nothing of interest to report in the waste basket or trash coverage according to this Informant. He stated that there were only some torn up notes, newspapers and envelopes, but no letters.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] likewise stated that there was nothing unusual to report, except for the fact that COL. COSBY, who originally arranged for the lease of the premises in the name of the New York State Economic Council had approached this Informant during the latter part of December 1942 and at that time HART owed both the November and the December rent. COSBY told Informant that HART and the Economic Council were about to go out of business; that one of the DUPONTIS (name unknown) was one of the substantial benefactors of the Council and that he ordinarily sent a substantial check to HART the first of every year, but COSBY advised that Informant not to be taken in by any such sudden influx of money. This Informant was at a loss to explain COSBY'S motive in coming to him and telling the story reported above. He stated that prior to this visit he had not seen COSBY for the preceding year. The reporting agent interviewed this Informant on January 15, 1943 and as of that date HART still owed the January rent. It is recalled that the monthly rental is \$100, which is believed to be quite low for this type of office at this address. HART talks of wanting improvements made and in the same breath asks for three month leases, rather than the usual six month or annual lease. This Informant also advised that nothing of interest was discovered in the trash coverage.

Confidential Informant [redacted] wrote a letter to HART recently asking further action with a view to raising money for the New York State Economic Council, but received no answer from HART. This Informant talked with several of the members of the original committee that raised funds for the Council some years ago and they rather indefinitely recalled they were suspicious of HART at the time and his motives, but nothing specific was mentioned except the observation that one of them stated "He may have his price."

[redacted] at 322 E. 59th Street, Manhattan,
[redacted] 10 W. 55th Street where HART formerly had

NY 100-21056

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b7D occupied a room. He stated that HART lived at 10 W. 55th Street for a period of two years, until he moved on September 25, 1942. At the time he took the place he said he wanted a very quiet room where he could do some writing. Shortly after moving into this room HART became friendly with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] opinion both [REDACTED] were pro-German in their sympathies and thought that Germany was the only place to live.

[REDACTED] noticed that [REDACTED] went out every evening about 10:00 PM and did not return until about 1:00 AM or after. [REDACTED] never worked but seemed to have ample funds and claimed to have been an artist.

[REDACTED] are now supposed to be married and are living somewhere in the Bronx. HART'S room was furnished with furniture that belonged to [REDACTED]. Due to some financial difficulties between [REDACTED] she was ordered out of the building. [REDACTED] advised that when HART learned of this he said that if [REDACTED] was going to move that he too would move.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] was not personally contacted [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] However, the reporting agent is in receipt of two letters [REDACTED] each enclosing a recent issue of the "Economic Council Letter".

The first is "Economic Council Letter No. 106" dated Sunday, November 1, 1942. In this letter HART, who is the author, goes into a discourse on "Four Freedoms Vs. Our Many Freedoms". He states in substance that strict regulations are acceptable in war time, but he appears to be afraid that there is a drive to make some of the war time regulations permanent after peace comes. He goes on to say that "The wastage and ruin caused by World War I destroyed or seriously dislocated the economic system of every country. That is why Lenin appeared in Russia, Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany and a host of lesser despots in many other quarters." He continues "At this moment many Federal agencies, with unlimited funds at their disposal, are planning our post-war system. You may be sure their plans will perpetuate bureaucratic controls. By contrast, the representatives of private enterprise present a picture of almost complete disorganization." Later on in the article he states "The propertied interests of the country must find the means of acting in concert. When we say propertied interests we mean all those whose savings, whose resourcefulness and whose daring have established and expanded industry, trade and agriculture....We are not ashamed to rank these "interests" as the true leaders in organized society and the only ones capable of preserving freedom." Also attached to this "Economic Letter No. 106" is a statement concerning the \$25,000 limit on salaries. HART states that he intends to fight this as much as possible and makes an appeal for funds to aid him.

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The second is "Economic Council Letter No. 107" dated Tuesday, December 1, 1942. This immediately criticizes President Roosevelt for his message of November 2nd asking for power to suspend all tariff, immigration and espionage laws, which may prohibit or delay the free movement of persons, property or information into or out of the United States. HART states "We approve wholeheartedly Mr. Roosevelt's avowed objectives. But in particular we see no necessity for any radical changes in the immigration or espionage laws. Nor is there justification for giving the President unlimited discretion in any of these matters." HART insists that the President should furnish a bill of particulars. Further on HART warns "We must be especially vigilant to prevent the growth of an extravagant executive authority that may outlive the war." HART suggests that a British Prime Minister can be promptly removed from office, but not the President of the United States. HART then states that his chief objection to this message of the President is on the question of immigration. He then goes on at great length expounding his fears that we will be overpowered with Europe's immigrants.

The results of the mail cover which was maintained as outlined in reference report on subject at both the New York State Economic Council offices, 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and at his apartment at 141 E. 56th Street, New York City, are herewith set forth:-

As might be expected HART received innumerable pieces of mail from both Houses of Congress, some Federal agencies and many well known business establishments, as well as from private individuals. Those, however, that seemed to present some question were reviewed.

It was noted that HART received a postcard dated November 4, 1942 from GERALD L. K. SMITH, Publisher of "The Cross and The Flag". This card asked a renewal of the subscription to the above-named magazine. ✓

[REDACTED]

HART also received a letter dated November 10, 1942 from [REDACTED]

No reference was found on this individual in the New York indices.

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HART also received letters from [REDACTED]

The only reference in the New York indices to this individual is a report dated October 12, 1942 from Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, stating that [REDACTED]

NY 100-21056

A letter was addressed to the subject postmarked November 28, 1942 from S. D. LEIDERSDORF & Company, 125 Park Avenue, New York City. No reference was found in the New York indices on this company, but personal observation indicated that this is a firm of Public Accountants and this company appears to be reputable.

There were several letters from [REDACTED] on which no references appeared in the New York indices. However, personal observation revealed that this is a clipping bureau.

Subject also received a letter postmarked November 27, 1942 from [REDACTED] who has already been identified as Vice President of the New York State Economic Council and has been commented on in reference report. Personal inquiry at 110 William Street indicated that although this building is located in the heart of the insurance district [REDACTED] is not connected with insurance in any way and appears to be engaged in some economic business.

On December 3, 1942 subject received a letter from "America", 329 W. 108th Street, New York City which was addressed to HART and the "Committee To Send Anesthetics And Medicines To Spain". This organization, "America", also has offices in the Grand Central Terminal Building, which offices are known as the American Press and publish a well known Catholic magazine.

Through the efforts of [REDACTED] the reporting agent was provided with a copy of both the declaration and the answer in the \$1,000,000 libel suit, which suit is captioned as follows:-

"Merwin K. Hart,
Plaintiff,
-against-
FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.,
(LUCIUS) M. BIRKHEAD, the
first name being fictitious,
the person intended to be
designated being L. M. BIRKHEAD,
The National Director of Friends
of Democracy, Inc., REX STOUT and
ARTHUR J. GOLDSMITH,
Defendants."

The Plaintiff's declaration sets forth that his attorney is BARTLE GORMAN and that the Plaintiff (HART) was and still is a citizen of the United States and a citizen of the State of New York, residing in

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Oneida County. Declaration further states that he is a member of the Bar of the State of New York; that during World War I he volunteered to serve in the armed forces of his native land and did so serve in the Army of the United States and was honorably discharged from said armed services at the conclusion of said conflict, with the rank of Captain, etc. Plaintiff then alleges that the defendant, Friends of Democracy, Inc., principal office located at 103 Park Avenue, New York City, is engaged "in the business of soliciting large sums of money for the purposes of propaganda and advancing its material aims.....that a certain pamphlet entitled "Summary of Activities of Friends of Democracy" was written, edited and/or composed by the defendant, L. M. BIRKHEAD, and that the defendants injured HART'S good name, etc. by holding him up to ridicule, etc....." HART then alleges that the following statement which he says is false was contained in this "Summary of Activities of Friends of Democracy":-

"Friends of Democracy is a national organization which has been carrying on activities against anti-democratic and appeasement propaganda since 1937. It has pioneered in exposing the American Quislings, the pro-Nazi, pro-Axis propagandists. Its pamphlets on subversive propagandists have been circulated throughout the country. Its files on subversive propaganda are reputed to be the most complete in the country. "Friends of Democracy" is gratified by the July 22, 1942 indictments by the Washington Grand Jury of twenty-eight American Quislings. The indictment also named twenty-eight organizations and several publications for plotting 'to interfere with, impair and influence the loyalty, morale and discipline' of the armed forces, and 'to cause insubordination, mutiny and refusal of duty' among the soldiers and sailors.

"What Friends of Democracy Has Done

"Early in 1938, Friends of Democracy published a leaflet listing a number of the anti-democratic organizations carrying on vigorous propaganda against democracy in this country. Among them were:

"Ku Klux Klan
World Service
The Silver Shirts
America in Danger!
German-American Bund

Crusader White Shirts
National Gentile League
James True Associates
Edmondson's American Vigilante
Defenders of the Christian Faith

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"NOTE: All the above named organizations were mentioned in the Grand Jury indictment of July 22, 1942."

"More than 200 American Quislings are still active: A case must be prepared against them and presented to the American people. A few of the outstanding are listed below.....Merwin K. Hart....."

"All of these people had connections either with George Sylvester Viereck, The German-American Bund, The America First Committee, The Silver Shirts, Flanders Hall, or other organizations mentioned in the July 22nd indictment."

The declaration then concludes demanding \$1,000,000 damages plus costs, and is signed by BARTLE GORMAN, Attorney for Plaintiff, Office & P.O. Address Insurance Building, Utica, New York.

The defendants answer denies all of the allegations, except that it admits the authorship of the "Summary of Activities of Friends of Democracy" and then goes on to further charge that plaintiff has been actively engaged in the dissemination of pro-Franco propaganda in the United States. Further that HART in 1938 with the cooperation of Franco's representatives in the United States paid a visit to Nationalist Spain. He remained in Spain about one month, his travels, as these defendants are informed and believe, being supervised by representatives of the Franco government. Defendants also state that in his book "America Look At Spain" HART condemned the ideals and principles of the French and American Revolutions, urging the people of the United States to "Look At Spain"; he wrote disparagingly of democracy and the democratic form of government, approved the measures taken by Franco and the intervention of Nazi and Italian troops in the Spanish Civil War as necessary to stamp out Communism in Spain, and justified Nazism and Fascism as weapons necessary to destroy Communism. The defendants' answer goes on to state that in 1939 HART organized and became Chairman of the American Union for Nationalist Spain, and opened offices for it in New York City. The purpose of this organization was to disseminate propaganda in favor of the Spanish Fascist State, and in this cause HART wrote articles and delivered lectures which were based upon the material contained in his book, "America Look At Spain". The defendants' answer continues that for many years HART has interested himself in organizations in the United States which have advocated for this country the same principles of government as now obtain in Germany, Italy and Spain, and has been associated with leaders of

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such organizations in their work. A partial list of such organizations and persons follows:

"Christian Front, whose store of arms and ammunition was discovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in January, 1940, and John Eoghan Kelly, one of its leaders, who was formerly a Major in the United States Army Reserve, but who was dismissed in 1941.

American Patriots Inc., an organization similar in purpose to the Christian Front, and Allen Zoll, a leader in this movement.

Bernard T. D'Arcy, Eastern distributor of Social Justice, and the Coughlinites.

Elizabeth Dilling, now under indictment and awaiting trial in the District of Columbia on a charge of impairing the morale of the armed forces of the United States."

This answer further charges that HART has consistently followed the accepted Nazi propaganda line, which is designed to divide this country, and by dividing it to weaken it against its enemies.

The answer of the defendants continues saying that the statements which the plaintiff (HART) claims defame him were honest expressions of the opinions of these answering defendants, and were made by said defendants in good faith and without malice toward the plaintiff. Further, that neither Dr. Birkhead nor Stout was personally acquainted with HART, nor had either of them any personal animus against him and as a partial defense and in mitigation of damages said defendants allege:-

"The defendant Leon M. Birkhead is a minister duly ordained in the Unitarian Church, and for more than twenty years prior to 1939 had been the pastor of All Souls Unitarian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. In the course of his service, he had long interested himself in social welfare work, in improving the condition of the less fortunate members of the community, and in preaching and actively working in the cause of tolerance. In 1935 Dr. Birkhead visited Germany in order to inform himself at first hand of the conditions which prevailed in that country. He saw the results of the Nazi reign of terror, its ruthless suppression of all opposition, its perversion of its courts, its disregard of human dignity and of all human rights, and its anti-religious policy, which was directed not only against the Jews but against any church and any minister or priest who dared to preach the gospel of Jesus and the principles of tolerance and brotherly love. The result was that Dr. Birkhead developed a hate of Nazism and everything connected with it.

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"Returning to the United States, Dr. Birkhead commenced the formation of an organization designed to ascertain the facts concerning Fascism in the United States. From 1935 until 1937 this organization existed informally, and during these years a large file on information concerning American Fascists was accumulated. However, by the Fall of 1937 the scope of this work had so grown, and the urgent need of combating Nazi propagandists in the United States had become so clearly apparent, that Dr. Birkhead and prominent individuals who shared his views organized a non-profit corporation known as Friends of Democracy, Inc. This corporation, one of the defendants in this action, was formed under the laws of the State of Missouri on November 1, 1937, and had its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, where Dr. Birkhead lived. By 1939 the duties of Dr. Birkhead as National Director of Friends of Democracy, Inc. had become so enormous that he found it impossible to continue with both those activities and his duties as minister of All Souls Unitarian Church. Believing the work of the Friends of Democracy, Inc. to be the most urgent at the time, Dr. Birkhead resigned his pulpit."

The defendant Rex Stout is an author by profession, having created the character Nero Wolf, the highly individualistic hero of a series of detective stories, and novels written by him have been produced by motion picture companies. He is Chairman of the Writers' War Board, a group formed at the request of the United States Government and whose expenses are defrayed by the Government, consisting of outstanding writers who have volunteered their services in furtherance of the war effort to prepare articles on such subjects as the Office of War Information and other governmental agencies may request. Stout has also regularly delivered addresses and has broadcast over major radio networks on topics designed to inform the public of our part in the war and to reveal the truth about enemy propaganda. Stout became interested in Friends of Democracy Inc in 1940 and has assumed an active part in the work of this organization, including, in collaboration with Dr. Birkhead and others, the preparation of its pamphlets, advertisements and communications addressed to its members.

Section 45 of the defendants' answer states that "In January 1940, upon the floor of the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., Hon. Frank Hook, Congressman from the State of Michigan, delivered an address in which he charged HART with being a leader in the field of un-American activities, a prominent collaborator with the Christian Front, and one who has urged people to band together and "revolt" against the present regime, and who had begged industrialists and financiers to resist measures enacted by Congress. Congressman Hook there characterized HART as 'a kind of Park Avenue operator for the Christian Front with its tragically misguided young men trying to assemble caches of arms and ammunition'. Newspapers through-

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"out the United States carried reports of the speech of Congressman Hook and his references to HART."

HART was attacked by Hon. Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, of the United States, in public speeches made by the latter in December 1940 and February, 1941, according to Section 46 of the defendants' answer. Ickes is said to have characterized HART as a "Quisling", and one engaged in un-American activities.

The defendants' answer continues that in October 1940, Hon. Robert H. Jackson, then Attorney General of the United States, and now a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in a public address characterized HART as a "pro-Fascist".

Section 48 of the Defendants' answer states that on many other occasions HART has received unfavorable publicity in newspapers and other periodicals published in the United States, as one who was pro-Nazi, pro-Axis, pro-Fascist and engaged in un-American activities.

Confidential Informant [redacted] was personally interviewed by the reporting agent on January 20, 1943. Among other things he stated that the pamphlet "Summary of Activities of Friends of Democracy" which contained the statements pertaining to HART had been mailed to about 175 members of the "Friends of Democracy". HART was also sent a copy of this pamphlet. This Informant provided the reporting agent with many copies of correspondence, etc., which he obtained from a confidential source known only to him. They related to the libel suit and will be used to show that HART had un-American tendencies. These will be commented on later in this report. This material has been photographed and photostatic copies are being retained in the New York File. The originals have been retained by this Informant. This Informant reviewed HART'S book "America Look At Spain" and pointed out several instances where, in his opinion, HART incriminated himself by assailing democratic principles. This Informant also stated that on at least one occasion HART said that to properly understand Communism in America today the American public should read ELIZABETH DILLING'S book entitled "The Red Network" and also another of her books entitled "The Roosevelt Red Record". This Informant also pointed out the close association between subject and JOHN BOGHAN KELLY, the latter engaged in furnishing articles for the magazine "Spain" published by the Spanish Library of Information. KELLY is purported to have submitted several articles for publication in the magazine "Spain" for which he was paid \$25 each and he is alleged to have also received \$500 for compiling information regarding Spain.

This Informant characterized HART as a professional witness before various Congressional hearings and said that HART believed in

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private property rights as a primary concern, whereas human rights (According to HART) are secondary thereto.

Among the photostatic exhibits obtained from this Informant and referred to above are the following:-

A page dated January 30, 1939 believed to be from the periodical "Social Justice" on which appears an article by subject entitled "There Is No Want In National Spain". This article is very short and the title is self-explanatory.

Another exhibit is a copy of a small pamphlet, not dated, which alleges to outline the purposes of the "New York State Economic Council", of which subject is President. The purposes are set out as follows:-

- 1) Curb Government Spending
- 2) Reduce Oppressive Taxation
- 3) Oppose Subversive Groups
- 4) Oppose Stifling Restriction Of Private Enterprise
- 5) Promote True Recovery

It was thought that this pamphlet was published just before the Council moved to its present office at 505 Fifth Avenue, inasmuch as the address on the pamphlet is 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.

According to this pamphlet the New York State Economic Council was established 1931 and has the following officers:-

MERWIN K. HART, President

GEORGE D. GRAVES, Treasurer
(Vice Pres. Chase National Bank, NYC)

WILLIAM FELLOWS MORGAN, Chairman Finance Committee

ELON H. HOOKER, Vice President
(Pres. Hooker Electrochemical Co., NYC)

THOMAS M. PETERS, Vice President
(New York City)

ALEXANDER D. FALCK, Vice President
(Chairman Corning Glass Works, Elmira, N. Y.)

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A copy of the "Program of the Congress of American Private Enterprise" concerning a meeting at Carnegie Hall, Seventh Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, Thursday, June 3, 1937, was obtained. Subject presided at the morning session and one WILLIAM C. BREED, of Breed, Abbott & Morgan, New York, Chairman of Board New York State Economic Council presided over the afternoon session. Among the speakers were, MRS. ELIZABETH DILLING, GERALD L. K. SMITH and HON. CLARE E. HOFFMAN, Member of Congress from Fourth District of Michigan.

Photostatic copy of Page 1 and Page 2 of the "Deutscher Weckruf" dated New York, N. Y., March 9, 1939 were obtained and it is noted that an article captioned "Administration Ignores Washington's Advice" was carried on Page 1 and continued on Page 2. One paragraph of the article states "Where the administration stands, and has stood all along, on the Spanish situation is clearly shown by Mr. MERVIN K. HART, President of New York State Economic Council, Inc., in a letter to Under Secretary of State, Sumner Welles. He proves beyond cavil that Washington has been the secret ally of the Red Spanish regime against Nationalist Spain under Franco, even to the extent of permitting recruiting for the Loyalists on American soil in violation of existing law. The paper reprints part of a letter written by HART to Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles in which HART says in substance that the Spanish situation has been grossly misrepresented; that food is obtainable in Spain; that misrepresentations were made of the atrocities of Spanish Reds during the first two and a half years of the war, coupled with a smoke screen of false propaganda, in the shape of allegations by Red sympathizers of similar atrocities on the part of the Spanish Nationalists has led to a complete misunderstanding of the entire Spanish situation by the American public; and that the Administration was actually working to bring about a Communist victory in Spain.

A copy of the advertisement captioned "Great Pro-American Mass Meeting Sunday Afternoon, February 19 at 4 Pm, Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue and 66th Street, New York was obtained and described the purpose of the meeting as being to "Keep America Out Of War Preserve Neutrality Combat Communism".

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A photostatic copy of a letter from [REDACTED] for the General Committee, Mass Meeting For Americanism And Neutrality, Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 66th Street, New York is also being retained in the New York File. HART was Chairman of this Committee, HILDRETH MEIERE, Treasurer and JOHN EOGHAN KELLY was Secretary. This letter refers to the meeting of February 19, 1939 and states further that the film "SPAIN IN ARMS" will be shown.

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Also included in these exhibits submitted by this Informant is a copy of the Examination in Supplementary Proceedings in the case of FRANCES JEFFRIES KELLY, Judgment-Creditor, -against- JOHN EOGHAN KELLY, Judgment-Debtor, wherein under examination one JAVIER GAYTAN De AYALA of the Spanish Library of Information was called as a witness. Examination in supplementary proceedings of the Spanish Library of Information as a witness was held at Special Term, Part II, on the 30th of June, 1941, at 10:15 AM, pursuant to the order of Mr. Justice SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN. Informant advised that JAVIER GAYTAN De AYALA has since "taken diplomatic immunity". (This information relative to KELLY'S trial is being injected here because of the close association between KELLY and HART).

JAVIER GAYTAN De AYALA testified that he resided at 301 East 38th Street, New York City and that he is an agent in charge of the Spanish Library of Information. In answer to the question "Is the 'Spanish Library of Information' merely a trade name?", Mr. JACOBI, of the firm of Wickes, Riddell, Bloomer & Jacobi, (which law firm represented the "Spanish Library of Information") answered that the Spanish Library of Information is an agency of the National Press Bureau, the foreign division, which is a branch of the Department of Interior of the Government of Spain. He further stated that it has an association with the Government of Spain as an agency in this country, but it does not do business as an individual. It was further stated that KELLY submitted articles for publication, outlining the publications as follows:-

"The English Magazine (monthly) is called 'Spain'
and the Spanish magazine (weekly) is called
'Cara Al Sol'"

De AYALA further testified that besides submitting articles for publication in the magazine "Spain" subject of the law suit JOHN EOGHAN KELLY would assist at meetings. As an example of KELLY'S assistance at meetings, DeAYALA stated "Suppose the American Legion had a meeting in Boston to talk about the policy of sending help to the hospitals in Spain. He would go there and, if someone made a remark that was wrong about Spain, he would try to correct it." This witness also testified that KELLY was being paid for research work and collecting material for a book of information about Spain.

The following copies of letters were obtained by Informant [redacted] from a confidential source. Photostats are being retained in this file:-

Letter dated October 24, 1939 from HART to "His Excellency, Don Juan F. de Cardenas, Spanish Embassy, Washington, D. C." It states in

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substance that the executive committee of the American Union for Nationalist Spain would be glad to have the Ambassador's comment and suggestion with reference to its future activities. One paragraph of the letter states "Now that the war is long since out of the way and the objectives of the Union to some extent accomplished, it is the opinion of the executive committee that there is no further purpose in keeping the Union as such in existence. There is a belief, however, that a cultural Spanish-American organization might well be formed in the United States which would be national in scope and which would exist for the promotion of friendly relations between New Spain and the United States. Therefore, our executive committee has under consideration a proposal to wind up the Union and to form or bring about the formation of such a Spanish-American organization."

Another letter dated November 23, 1938 to the Ambassador is one in which HART takes it upon himself to advise the Ambassador just what he believes the latter should "confine his proposed Chicago address to showing that Loyalist Spain is Communistic, it might be the best selection of the topic at this time."

A memorandum dated June 7, 1939 from "John E. Kelly" to Mr. Hart states "Now that former Secretary of State Stimson has raised his voice for lifting the embargo, might not Mr. Bainbridge Colby be persuaded to change his previous stand? If we could announce his joining the committee it would make an excellent piece of publicity. Otherwise, I think we can make our publicity announcement on Miss Thompson and other radicals. Father Talbot told me that Miss Meiere had suggested that our first announcement be only a statement of principles, but I am afraid that at this stage of the battle the newspapers would consider it too bloodless and we should probably receive very poor publicity, whereas if we enter the fight by an attack upon one as prominent as Miss Thompson, her paper will be constrained to print it and others will follow."

A letter dated June 30, 1939 from JUAN F. de CARDENAS, Spanish Ambassador, addressed to HART expresses the Ambassador's thanks for the interest that HART has shown toward Spain and states "I do not find words to express to you my gratitude for the interest you show towards Spain as well as for the help you are giving to the Nationalist Government in so many ways."

A letter from Ambassador JUAN F. de CARDENAS dated December 19, 1938 to HART states "I wish to thank you very much for your kind letter of December 16th with which you enclose 2 copies of the address you made at the American Patriots Luncheon. I read with great pleasure your interesting speech which I found excellent and most timely. Please accept my sincere congratulations and thanks for your help and cooperation and....."

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A letter on the letterhead of the International Catholic Truth Society, 405-407 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., and signed by EDWARD LODGE CURRAN, who is apparently President of this Society, was addressed to subject on January 19, 1939 and reads in part as follows:-

"Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your communication of January 13th. I shall be very happy to serve as a member of the General Committee of one hundred of the American Union for Nationalist Spain. I agree with you that immediate action is necessary in order to stop the Leftists from lifting the embargo on arms to Spain. We must strike hard and we must strike often. I shall be very happy to cooperate with you in any and every way possible. While one mass meeting has already been held in Washington, I believe that another mass meeting under the auspices of the American Union for Nationalist Spain might do much towards stopping the effects of the Leftist propaganda in this country."

A letter dated July 28, 1938 from JOHN EOGHAN KELLY to Mrs. Ruth Shipley, Chief, Passport Division, Washington, D. C. says in substance that HART is planning to leave for Spain in connection with a general survey of Spanish economic affairs particularly as relate to both frozen American credits and the possibility of increasing American trade with Spain after the present civil war.. KELLY states that HART possesses a passport bearing the notation "Not valid in Spain" and he is desirous of consulting you as to how this may be waived in view of his valid reason for entering Nationalist territory.

A letter written April 12, 1939 by HART addressed to Senor Pablo Merry del Val, Ministerio del Interior, Servicio de Prensa, Burgos, Spain in which HART states "I have thought of you many times in recent weeks while the war was in process of being finished. I am greatly delighted, of course, at the outcome. I can well imagine the relief that it has brought to all of you in Spain." HART advises that he has written a book on Spain and the lessons that may be drawn from Spain by Americans. He states he will send del VAL a copy and requests him to comment on this book as he see fit. He also requests this individual to visit him in New York.

A letter dated September 27, 1938 from PABLO MERRY del VAL to HART in which the former says in part "I herewith enclose the photographs that you selected from the twenty thousand odd pictures which we keep in our archives. These are only some of the thousands which reproduce the horrors perpetrated by the Reds on women and children. If you need any more I will certainly send them to you."

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There were many other letters contained in the material which was obtained, however, they are not being commented on as they appear to serve no special purpose.

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b7D
Informant [redacted] states that he definitely believes HART is a pro-Axis and pro-Spanish propagandist, but by the same token is extremely clever and difficult to entrap in damaging statements or written articles. He feels sure that HART is anti-Semitic, although there is nothing specific to which he can point his finger. He added that from a highly confidential source (known only to himself) he learned that in addition to HART'S trip to Spain in 1938, he also made a trip to Brazil about the middle of 1936, at the time FRANCO was just starting up in power. The purpose of this trip, according to informant, was to line up the Catholic Clergy on the side of FRANCO. This Informant allegedly got this information from [redacted]
[redacted]

- P E N D I N G -

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will check with the Passport Section of the State Department in an effort to determine accurately when subject made his trip to Spain in 1938 and also the alleged trip to Brazil in 1936, securing all pertinent information thereto, including the name of the vessel, point of embarkation and debarkation.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

After the above lead set out for the Washington Field Division has been covered will contact the steamship company involved and determine if anyone other than HART paid for his trip to Spain and his alleged trip to Brazil.

Will recontact Confidential Informant [REDACTED] for further information.

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants referred to in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at New York, New York, March 13, 1943 are:-

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York City

[REDACTED]
(Same address as above)

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b7D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FILE NO. **100-12460**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/20/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/22; 4/2/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c LL:ACA
TITLE Changed: MERWIN K. HART, alias Mervin K. Hart, alias Merwin Kimball Hart.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MERWIN KIMBALL HART, born in the United States, was granted passport facilities since 1923, last passport issued June 1935, renewed in July 1938, and subsequently amended to include a trip to Spain.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** New York, New York, March 13, 1943. b7c

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

The title of this case has been changed to reflect the full name of subject to be **MERWIN KIMBALL HART**, as indicated in his passport file. b2
b7D

Confidential National Defense Informant **[REDACTED]** known to the Bureau, made available to Agent the passport file pertaining to this subject, which discloses the following pertinent information:

MERWIN KIMBALL HART, born June 25, 1881, at Utica, New York, an Attorney at Law, enjoyed American passport facilities since April 9, 1923, when passport number 265,711 was issued to him for a three months' commercial business trip in England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Switzerland.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NUS/CLP/L

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 5 - New York 2 - Washington Field		100-12460-430 F. B. I. 10 APR 24 1943 N. Y. C. ROUTED TO FILE

Passport number 221,443 was issued to subject on June 27, 1935, to visit France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Germany for recreation and education, to depart from the Port of New York on July 31, 1935, via Steamship Washington. This passport was renewed for two years on July 27, 1938. In the application for renewal, subject stated that he contemplated departing from the Port of New York on August 13, 1938, via Steamship Saturnic. Subject's proposed itinerary was not indicated in this application.

The file reflects a letter dated July 28, 1938, addressed to the Chief of the Passport Division, State Department by JOHN EOGHAN KELLY, Consulting Engineer, Jersey City, New Jersey, in behalf of MERWIN L. HART, President of the New York State Economic Council, who is planning to depart from nationalistic Spain in connection with a general survey of Spanish economic affairs, and whose passport contains the restriction that it is not valid in Spain. The writer of this letter requests that in view of subject's purpose for that trip, the restriction be cancelled and the passport amended accordingly.

By letter dated August 1, 1938, addressed to the Chief of the Passport Division, subject, the President of the New York State Economic Council, 17 East 42nd Street, New York City, enclosed his passport, requesting that the surcharge, "Not valid in Spain", be cancelled and the passport made valid for permitting him to enter Spain. The file reflects that subject's passport was amended accordingly and mailed to him on August 2, 1938, the receipt of which he acknowledged on August 10, 1938.

The file indicates a Refusal Notice entered in subject's passport file under date of January 1, 1942. The reason given for this action is indicated to be his alleged connection with the Franco Movement in Spain, according to a Federal Bureau of Investigation letter of October 30, 1941.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

Form No. 3

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**NY FILE NO. **100-21056 KOB**

REPORT MADE AT: NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE: 7/31/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 7/24, 25, 27, 28/43	REPORT MADE BY: [REDACTED] b7C
TITLE: MERWIN K. HART, with aliases Mervin K. Hart, Merwin Kimball Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE: SEDITION

SUMMARY REPORT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE **1/27/00** BY **60267 HUS/KC/K**

DETAILS:

This report is written for the purpose of setting forth any evidence contained in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at New York City, tending to show a violation on the part of the subject and any one or more of the defendants to the indictment returned in the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia on January 4th, 1943 in the matter of the UNITED STATES VS GERALD S. WINROD, ET AL, of the Conspiracy Statutes of the United States Code, with particular reference to Section 11, Title 18, and Section 34, Title 50.

With respect to the above it is noted that on January 20th, 1943 Confidential Informant [REDACTED] who is believed to be entirely reliable, furnished to the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation a printed program of the Congress of American Private Enterprise, held at Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, Thursday, June 3rd, 1937, 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

The above referred to program lists MERWIN K. HART, the subject, as Chairman of the American Committee of Private Enterprise. Among the speakers at the Congress, this program lists Mrs. ELIZABETH DILLING, author of the Red Network. It is noted that Mrs. DILLING is one of the thirty four defendants to the indictment referred to in the first paragraph of this report. Mrs. DILLING spoke, according to the program on the topic "Forces that Undermine America".

The referred to program was photostated and the original was thereafter returned to Confidential Informant [REDACTED]. A photostatic copy of the above referred to program is being forwarded to the Bureau and is identified by the Ink Stamp Number 100-21056 1A6 and the initials AGS with the date 7/28/43. It will be noted that the initials and date above referred to were placed upon the exhibit at the time the exhibit was removed from the New York file to be

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: W7m	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	100-21056-36	RECORDED AND INDEXED:
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	CHECKED OFF:
5 Bureau (Encls 5) 2 New York		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	JACKETED:
		ROUTED TO:	FILE
			KOB

N.Y. 100-21056

forwarded to the Bureau, by the writer of this report.

There are also forwarded to the Bureau herewith photostatic copies of the above referred to photostat. These copies are identified by the initials ACS and the date 7/28/43 as well as the Pencil Number NY 100-21056 1A6.

It is further noted:

b7c [REDACTED] credibility unknown, whose address is the [REDACTED] a former employee of the New York State Economic Council, of which the subject HART was President advised the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in June of 1939 that HART, before his trip to Spain in 1938, was in communication with ELIZABETH DILLING, one of the thirty four defendants to the indictment mentioned in the first paragraph of this report.

ENCLOSURES FOR THE BUREAU

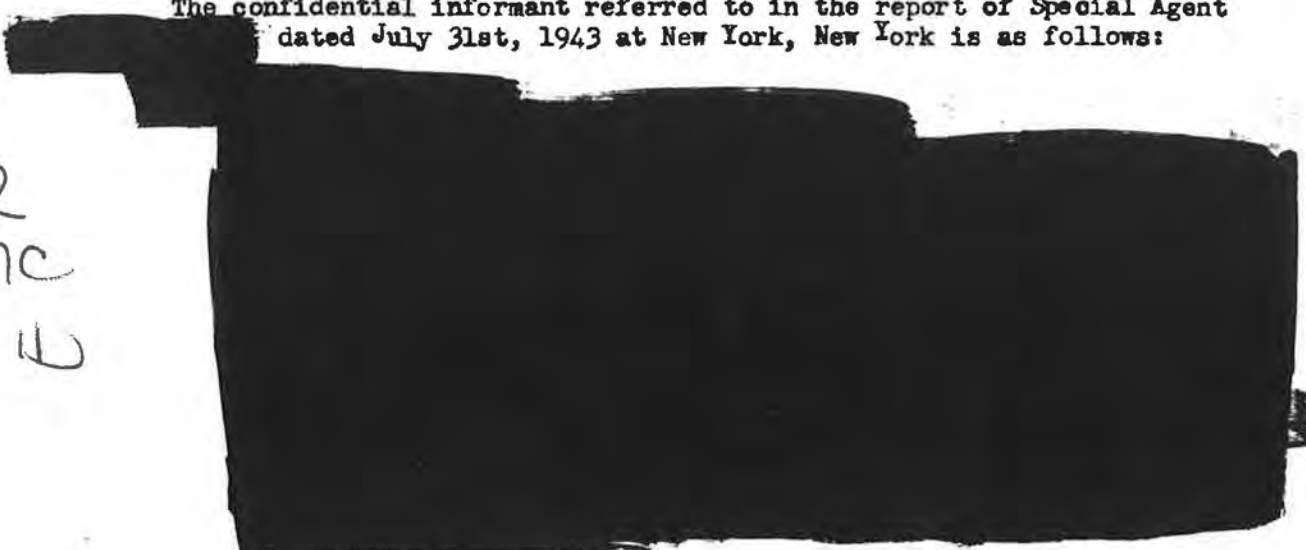
One photostat of the program of the Congress of American Private Enterprise, held on June 3rd, 1937 in Carnegie Hall.

Four photostatic copies of the photostat of the program of the Congress of American Private Enterprise, held on June 3rd, 1937 in the Carnegie Hall.

N.Y. 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

The confidential informant referred to in the report of Special Agent
dated July 31st, 1943 at New York, New York is as follows:



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b7c
b4

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ACS:KOB
100-21056


July 31, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Re: MERWIN K. HART, with aliases
SEDITION

The exhibit 100-21056 1A6, a photostatic copy of the program of the Congress of American Private Enterprise, Held at Carnegie Hall on June 3rd, 1937 has been removed from the New York file and has been forwarded to the Bureau.

Submitted by, *b7C*


Special Agent.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *1/27/00* BY *60267AES/cuc/pl*



<i>100-21056-32</i>	
F. B. I. <i>100</i>	
JUL 31 1943	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	<i>Wm</i>

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

COMPLAINT FORM

b7c

Merwin K. Hart, Jr.
National Economic Council, Inc.

Subject's Name and aliases

350 Fifth Ave. N.Y.C.

Address of Subject

Internal Security

Character of Case

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE *1/27/00* BY *60267 uis/cac/pet*

Name of Complainant

Address of Complainant

Wm. 4-4800

Telephone Number of Complainant

2:00 P.M. 8/9/43

Date and Time Complaint rec'd.

FACTS OF COMPLAINT:

In the course of a separate investigation complainant turned over the attached literature to the writer feeling that some investigation should be undertaken inasmuch as Merwin K. Hart is known to complainant as a Fascist thinking individual. Also attached is an article appearing in P.M. Aug. 10, 1943.

(if additional space needed use reverse side)

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

No investigation

DISPOSITION BY SAC:

Open new Case

Assign to Agent

Assign to P.D.

Defer

Route to Agent

No Action Necessary:

File in



100-21056-33

B. i.

16 AUG 11 1943

Special Agent in Charge
or Supervisor

WMC

b7c

7/27/43
NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.

MERWIN K. HART
PRESIDENT
ARCHIBALD EWING STEVENSON
VICE PRESIDENT
THOMAS M. PETERS
SECRETARY
DEAN CLARK
TREASURER
A. MARGARET SCHMID
FIELD SECRETARY

Formerly, NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.

350 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Lackawanna 4-1665

SIBYLLA SCHILLING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MRS. ALICE S. WRIGHT
ASSISTANT TREASURER

July 20, 1943

John Macrae, Esq., President
E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
300 Fourth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

My attention has been called this morning to a book just published by you entitled "UNDER COVER".

I find this book astounding in its audacity, its recklessness and its falsehood. The author, whose true name appears not to be disclosed, but whom the book reviewer in the Herald Tribune of Monday morning describes as an Armenian-American - whatever that may mean - has produced a book which consists in large part, so far as I can observe, of sweepings of dirt culled from such publications as "THE DAILY WORKER", "PM" and others.

With respect to statements made about me, which are fairly numerous, I tell you frankly that some of them are downright falsehoods and the balance consists largely of lifting of excerpts from their contexts in various publications.

It is a surprise indeed that an old publishing house like yours would lend itself to putting out so filthy a book.

Perhaps you did not know it, but I already have a libel suit pending against certain of the more responsible persons from whom have come name-callings not dissimilar to those contained in your book. Many of the persons described by this author I know nothing about; but I am able to detect with respect to certain of the others, who include some of the finest citizens in this country, statements that I believe to be as false as those made about me.

I consider it only fair to you to bring these false aspects in your book to your own personal attention immediately.

Very sincerely,

Merwin K. Hart

Merwin K. Hart

3
MKH:HP

New York, New York

September 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/ELC/K

RE: "UNDER COVER"
JOHN ROY CARLSON - AUTHOR
SEDITION

The attached photostatic copy of a letter from Subject indicates possible legal action against E. P. DUTTON AND COMPANY, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York City, because of the fact that he was unfavorably mentioned in the book "UNDER COVER" BY JOHN ROY CARLSON.

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The letters were obtained from [redacted] Roth, Clark, Buckner and Valentine, 39 Nassau Street, New York City, attorneys for E. P. DUTTON AND COMPANY. [redacted] advised he did not expect that legal action would be brought against E. P. DUTTON for the publication of this book.

This information is being incorporated in the file inasmuch as it indicates Subject's reaction to this book. No further action is contemplated at this time, but [redacted] has advised he will advise this office if legal action is begun [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agent

HMC:bs

100-~~21056~~ Attachment
65-7018 " "
100-40723 " "
14-0 " "

copy sent to Bureau

100-21056-35	
F. B. I.	
SEP 22 1943	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

THE ANTI-NAZI BULLETIN

Official Publication of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, Inc.

VOL. VII—No. 4

NEW YORK, N. Y., AUGUST, 1943

237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/cup/h

clippings from anti Nazi Bulletin
August 1943
Submitted by [redacted]

b7c

NEWS BRIEFS-

As a suitable symbol for a McCormick-Wheeler Third Party, we recommend Mr. Neville Chamberlain's umbrella — tightly rolled and with a blunted point.

Our April issue headlined news of an impending concentration of isolationist forces in Chicago.

Merwin K. Hart's National Economic Council provides the newest item on this front. The "Council" has blossomed out with a Chicago branch, which now shares offices at 1559 Continental Bank Building, Chicago, with Otto W. Berg and Walter Brewer, attorneys. The 717 square feet of space, at \$150 monthly rental, consists of an entry, with a receptionist to the right of the double doors, and three private offices in the rear. Only the names of Attorneys Berg and Brewer appear on the office doors. The National Economic Council, however, is listed on the directory in the building lobby.

✓ We trust the above information will be of interest to Mr. Hart's good friend, Harry A. Jung, Honorary General Manager of the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation (Chicago Tribune Bldg., Chicago.)

The League has in Mr. Hart more than a passing interest. Our concern is rooted in the League's exposure in September, 1941, of Mr. Hart's close associations with propagandist Allen Zoll and with John E. Kelly, who is now serving a Federal prison term for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Apparently the old adage about "Once bitten, twice shy," is no longer valid in Washington. An AP dispatch, dated August 22 and printed in the New York Daily News, states that Representative Walter C. Ploeser, Missouri isolationist, will introduce a resolution to investigate whether the motion picture industry "is being used for political

purposes in reconvenes.

An inter-Gannett's C of the Ku Klux Klan recently the I — one entire group, the Book SABO Ku Klux Klan inside the I ments from at 205 East report to y

In our JUSTICE, published in and, we hope, location.

Westb covered a 1 pooh-pooh around Del of this consistently p ese radio) poor, gent the villain.

100-21056-36
SAH



HEADQUARTERS
CITY PATROL CORPS

300 MULBERRY STREET
NEW YORK

September 20. 1943.

[REDACTED]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Court House
New York City

Dear [REDACTED]

I found these examples of the Merwin K. Hart literature down at our house in Bound Brook yesterday. I notice that now he has an office in Chicago, and another in Utica, N.Y. When I knew the organization I do not remember that it was scattered round like this but it may have been.

Do you want me to keep on sending you what comes in or is this sufficient?

Sincerely yours,

Home address:
[REDACTED]

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DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267NLS/uc/pcl

100-21056-37/and

19 SEP 20 1943

[REDACTED] GC

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from exhibits 1A''

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N.Y.**

NY

FILE NO. **100-21056 MMS**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE NOV 8 1943	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/7, 9, 20, 21; 10/2/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE CHANGED MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was Merwin K. Hart, Merwin K. Hart <i>Card attached</i>			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER-G
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject has changed the name of his organization from New York State Economic Council to the National Economic Council. Headquarters moved to Empire State Building, NYC; has also opened office in Chicago. Regular publications continued with much criticism of Communism and the Administration. One pamphlet in particular publishes ROSE WILDER LANE's criticism of the FBI, entitled "WHAT IS THIS THE GESTAPO?" Investigation being continued.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-P-</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York, N.Y., March 13, 1943.</p> <p>DETAILS: The title of this case is being marked changed to reflect the subject's full name, MERWIN KIMBALL HART.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Under date of March 2, 1943, the newspaper PM, published in New York, carried an article indicating that JOHN EOGHAN KELLY had been indicted for failing to register as a "foreign employee." This article went on to state that he was closely and publicly associated with MERWIN KIMBALL HART, head of the New York State Economic Council, and that KELLY had been instrumental in getting the State Department to allow HART to go through FRANCO territory in Spain during the Spanish Civil War.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The reporting agent also noted a clipping from the Anti-Nazi Bulletin, which is the Official Publication of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, Inc., published at New York in August of 1943, which stated under their "News Briefs" the following:</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau (Encl.-2) 2-Chicago 1-Capt. [REDACTED] (DIO 3ND) 1-Col. [REDACTED] (ID 2SC) ③-New York		100-21056-38 <i>✓</i>	
		<i>MMS</i>	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60327msj/csp

NY 100-21056

"MERWIN K. HART's NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL provides the newest item on this front (meaning the impending concentration of Idealist forces in Chicago). The 'Council' has blossomed out with a Chicago branch, which now shares offices at 1559 Continental Bank Building, Chicago with OTTO W. BERG and WALTER BREWER, attorneys. The 717 square feet of space, at \$150 monthly rental consists of an entry, with a receptionist to the right of the double doors, and three private offices in the rear. Only the names of Attorneys BERG and BREWER appear on the office doors. The NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, however, is listed on the directory in the building lobby.

b7C "We trust the above information will be of interest to MR. HART's good friend, [REDACTED] the AMERICAN VIGILANT INTELLIGENCE FEDERATION (Chicago Tribune Bldg., Chicago).

"The League has in MR. HART more than a passing interest. Our concern is rooted in the League's exposure in September 1941 of MR. HART's close associations with propagandist [REDACTED] who is now serving a Federal prison term for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act."

From a review of some of subject's recent publications in the form of Economic Council letters and pamphlets designed to be distributed to the members of the Council, it was noted in a pamphlet captioned "ACTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC., Special meeting, Chicago, Illinois, June 28 and 29, 1943" that the title of this organization is no longer NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, but is now called the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL with the following addresses:

350 Fifth Avenue, New York City (Empire State Building)
1559 Continental Bank Building, Chicago, Illinois
903 First Bank Building, Utica, New York

In this special meeting just referred to the Council by its Board of Directors adopted a "Re-declaration of Independence" a copy of which is being retained in the exhibit file in this case in the New York Field Division. This Re-declaration of Independence is primarily anti-administration stating that the "principles of liberty and free Government —are now being violated and destroyed by public servants whom we have entrusted with high national office ----."

"Thus the form of Government which our fathers founded to insure liberty to the individual is being changed into one in which, under the guise of social reform and on the pretext of the needs of war, freedom is being concentrated in the executive as the symbol of the State."

NY 100-21056

The demands made in this Re-Declaration include re-wordage of the constitutional system, re-establishment of the legislative, judicial and executive as separate branches of Government. It also includes that the Bill of Rights be scrupulously observed and that foreign policies be definitely related to American needs, and that such foreign policies shall not be permitted to destroy or impair either our form of Government or our standard of living. This paper then provides space for persons receiving it to sign their names and return same to the Council headquarters.

In a Council pamphlet, volume 2, number 3, published July 1943, MERWIN K. HART is the author of an article "THE BUREAUCRAT GOES TO TOWN." The text of this publication indicates that an unknown Washington official representing the Housing Authority acted as a Bureaucrat, and is severely criticized by HART.

In Economic Council letter #114, dated July 1, 1943, HART criticized the "planned economy" and denies its existence. He admits that total war means personal sacrifices, but that shortages in the United States are not because of Lend Lease, but that the New Deal has brought utter confusion; that the trend in food production is downward, and that the country suffers from a "blight of Bureaucratic control;" that ceiling prices have been set without regard to cost. HART's suggestion is a consolidation of all authority over food in one man and puts the question up to the people.

In Economic Council letter #116 dated Wednesday, September 1, 1943, HART devotes his whole article to a discussion of the article written by ROSE WILDER LANE entitled, "WHAT IS THIS--THE GESTAPO?" This verbatim article by ROSE WILDER LANE was published in pamphlet form by the Economic Council in volume 2, number 4, dated August 1943. This article has been photostated, and two copies are being submitted to the Bureau with this report. In the Council letter referring to the "Gestapo" incident it is stated that the "LANE incident is disquieting because it shows beyond doubt that someone in a responsible Government Bureau believes that any criticism of administration policies, even of Social Security, is seditious. The disturbing feature of this incident is not that the FBI confiscated a 'suspicious' postcard, nor that the Connecticut State Police acted in behalf of that Federal Bureau. In time of war responsible Government agencies must probe every suspicious circumstance however trivial it may appear. The country's safety depends upon their diligence and alertness-----. The Secret Police enforcing the laws of the land is not a Gestapo, but a Secret Police used for partisan purposes is a Gestapo no matter what you call it." He then goes on to demand that freedom of speech and the press be acknowledged.

NY 100-21056

The newspaper PM also wrote up this matter and referred to the four page printed circular distributed by the Economic Council carrying the article by ROSE WILDER LANE. It appeared also that MISS LANE had been contacted by PM and told them that she did not believe GRAFTON had turned over her name to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but that she was at a loss to explain where the complaint to the Federal Bureau of Investigation originated, and she said further that she brought the incident to the attention of the Council recently when HART visited her on another matter; also when asked whether she was a member of the Council, she said she had signed a "Re-Declaration of Independence" circulated by the Council and believed every word of it.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the million dollar libel suit brought by HART against FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY ET AL is still pending and that no trial date has yet been set, but that it is expected HART will be given a pre-trial examination within the near future.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] will continue to follow all his literature and provide agent with the copies. She commented on one [redacted] as having done some "vitriolic" book reviews for HART's Council. She also referred again to the fact that [redacted] of the CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY in New York City had entertained HART at his home. She further commented that the NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL had lately become a national organization and was known as the NEW YORK ECONOMIC COUNCIL. She again reiterated her previous opinion that she could not believe that HART was subsidized by any foreign power or Government and that he was playing the wealthy anti-ROOSEVELTS and the staunch Republicans for his own personal benefit.

[redacted] formerly occupied by HART at 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City was interviewed at his office [redacted] He said that prior to HART moving out on May 1, 1943 that he had been on the basis of 60 day leases [redacted] He had no further information of value to offer.

Confidential Informant [redacted] contained no recent news items of interest not already covered.

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Confidential Informant [REDACTED] stated that he knew of HART being a tenant in the Empire State Building, occupying rooms 3318 and 3320; that he knew little of him personally except that when [REDACTED] was a member of the NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE, HART was also a member, being an upstate Republican, who had not particularly distinguished himself. He knew of no subversive connections that subject may have, and advised that HART was one of many groups operating for profit and that he did not constitute a danger.

[REDACTED] CONSOLIDATED
[REDACTED] EDISON COMPANY, 4 Irving Place, New York City, and advised [REDACTED] had known HART years and years ago when she went to school with him; that in later years when HART became interested in the NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, he, HART had been to the [REDACTED] home and on one occasion had solicited and received a thousand dollar voluntary contribution. This was just after HART returned from Spain. His conversation, although not recalled specifically, was decidedly pro-FRANCO. [REDACTED] thought he catered particularly to the wealthy, and did not know much of his personal activities. [REDACTED] stated that he avoided HART because he was always after him for money.

HART is continuing to publish his economic papers, which criticize the administration and violently attacks Communism.

Under date of September 30, 1943, Special Agent [REDACTED] received a photostatic copy of a letter from Confidential Informant [REDACTED] which letter was dated July 20, 1943 and addressed to JOHN MACRAE, President of the E.P. DUTTON COMPANY, 300 4th Avenue, New York City and signed by MERWIN K. HART. In this letter HART takes exception to the numerous references to him in the book entitled "Under Cover." He states that all references in this book are false.

ENCLOSURES - BUREAU (2)

2 Copies of pamphlet entitled "WHAT IS THIS-THE GESTAPO?"

P E N D I N G

NY 100-21056

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION
AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

b7c Will report as to the background and character of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Attorneys 1559 Continental Bank Building, Chicago,
Illinois, where HART is alleged to have office space.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION
AT NEW YORK, N.Y.

Will continue to contact confidential informant [REDACTED] regarding
prosecution of the Libel suit in which HART is the plaintiff.

Will continue to contact confidential informant [REDACTED] for copies of
HART's publications.

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NY 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated November 8, 1943 are as follows:

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] is the law firm of STERN and RUBENS, 551 5th Avenue, New York City.

[REDACTED]

The identity of the above informant is being withheld on request.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This informant's identity is being withheld on request.

Confidential Informant T-3 is the New York Times Morgue, identity withheld upon request.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His identity is withheld because of his official position and national prominence.

Confidential Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] E.P. DUTTON and COMPANY. Identity withheld because of possible value to the Bureau in the event HART brings suit for libel against [REDACTED] has promised to advise this office if such suit is brought.

Dec 1943



JOHN RAY CARLSON, who will speak in Yonkers tomorrow night.

'Under Cover' Author Here

John Roy Carlson, author of "Under Cover," will speak tomorrow at 8:30 P. M. at the Lincoln Park Jewish Center, 329 Central Park Avenue, Joseph Stein, president of the center, reported today.

Mr. Carlson, who is of Armenian origin, received his B.S. degree from New York University's School of Journalism in 1932 and was a newspaper reporter for several years before accepting research assignments for Fortune magazine.

For the last four years, working in a collaboration with the F.B.I. and other Government agencies, Mr. Carlson has attended meetings of German, Italian and other foreign groups "to learn the inner workings of their system."

Mr. Stein said today that while some of the seats are reserved, others will be open to the general public.

YONKERS HERALD STATESMAN 12-20-43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NCS/clc/pl

100-21056	
F. B. I.	
DEC 22 1943	
N. Y. C.	
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FILE NO **100-13787**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 1/6/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/18, 19, 23/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c PSF:HFP
TITLE MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER (G)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/00 BY 60327/UC/KCF

WALTER BREWER, Attorney, 1559 Continental Illinois National Bank Building, is a native of Illinois highly considered by members of the Bar. Formerly a State's Attorney at Danville, Illinois, and a Judge of the 5th Circuit for two terms. Represented many prominent figures, including GEORGE GETZ, formerly a national figure in the Republican Party. [REDACTED] is reportedly a [REDACTED] both reportedly high type Americans. Reported that [REDACTED] might innocently become involved in a questionable organization if it would bring business. No indication of any un-American activities.

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RUC.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED], dated November 8, 1943, at New York City.

DETAILS:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

The following information was gathered from "Who's Who in Chicago & Vicinity" for 1941, published by the A. N. Marquis Company:

"WALTER BREWER born at Toledo, Illinois, October 3, 1880; graduated from Toledo High School, 1898; received LL.B. Northern Illinois Law School, Dixon, Illinois, 1901; admitted Illinois Bar 1901; State's Attorney, Cumberland County, Illinois, 1904-1908 and re-elected to 1912;

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 5 New York (1 ONI, 1 MID) 2 Chicago		100-21056-40 F. B. I. JAN 10 1944 N. Y. C.	
		[REDACTED] FILE	

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Chicago File
No. 100-13787

Judge, Circuit Court, 5th Judicial Circuit of Illinois, 1915-1927; resumed practice at Danville, Illinois, 1927, continued until 1930; moved to Chicago in 1930 as a partner, firm of Sims, Godman, Stransky & Brewer; since February 1935, partner with Brewer & Farrell; member Republican Club, Methodist Church, Masons, the Union League Club, and the "40" Club of Chicago; resides 325 Lake Street, Evanston, Illinois".

[REDACTED] a former associate of Judge WALTER BREWER, stated that he had known him well since 1936. He stated that Judge BREWER was a very conservative man, a staunch Republican, and above all, loyal, patriotic American. [REDACTED] stated that Judge BREWER was a close friend of [REDACTED] at Chicago. Mr. BREWER represented GEORGE GETZ, an official of the Republican Party until his death, and many other prominent persons. [REDACTED] believes that Judge BREWER would not be associated or in any way connected with any enterprise which would be un-American or in any way detrimental to the best interests of this country, unless through some guile he became involved because of a misunderstanding.

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b7D [REDACTED] stated that he had known and was associated with Judge BREWER during the past twenty years, and that he in no way ever questioned Judge BREWER's loyalty or patriotism to this country. [REDACTED] stated that Judge BREWER was the highest type of a man, intelligent judge and a good lawyer.

[REDACTED] stated that he had known [REDACTED] since about 1930 at which time [REDACTED] had been brought into the law firm of Sims, Stransky & Brewer as a protege of Judge BREWER. [REDACTED] stated that he believed that [REDACTED] was born at Crystal Lake, Illinois, and that his parents were Swedish or Norwegian, even though the name might make one believe that it might be German. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was rather a bullheaded person in that he was set in his ways. [REDACTED] stated that after Judge BREWER left the firm [REDACTED] remained as an associate until about 1939, at which time [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to move to Freeport, Illinois. He stated that [REDACTED] stayed at Freeport for about two years, but could not make a living and therefore returned to Chicago and started to work once again for Judge BREWER. [REDACTED] stated that he did not think that [REDACTED] would be engaged in anything of an

Chicago File
No. 100-13787

b7c un-American nature, and that he would only be too glad to vouch for [redacted] Americanism and loyalty to this country. [redacted] stated that [redacted] might represent a company or organization whose business might be questionable if he thought he could develop a good client in that way. [redacted] stated that [redacted] is a good Republican and probably be interested in any Republican organizations.

The records of the Chicago Bar Association failed to disclose any record of [redacted] but do indicate that Judge BREWER had been recommended by [redacted] and that there was no question or any record of anything that would indicate that there should be any question as to Judge BREWER's reputation.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N.Y.**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056 SMD**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 10 1944	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/14,15/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7C
TITLE MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was. Merwin K. Hart, Mervin K. Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER-G
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Recent publications of subject reviewed. Million dollar libel suit in which subject is plaintiff against the Friends of Democracy et. al. not yet marked for trial. Investigation being conducted.</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <u>1/27/00</u> BY <u>6027NLS/ewh</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated November 8, 1943 at New York City. b7C</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p>Confidential Informant [REDACTED] advises that the motion for pre-trial examination was affirmed with a re-hearing promised later, and it is not at all certain that HART will submit to pre-trial examination. This is in connection with the suit for libel brought by HART as plaintiff for one million dollars against the Friends of Democracy, et. al.</p> <p>[REDACTED] also confidentially advised that it is expected that HART may be asked about using the funds of the New York State Economic Council for FRANCO purposes in the same fashion that FRITZ KUHN used German-American Bund funds. [REDACTED] also heard a while ago that HART made a special speech on the west coast, the nature of which was unknown to him, except that HART apparently stated among other things that STALIN looks after Russia, CHURCHILL looks after England, but who looks after the United States. Another one of [REDACTED] reports discloses that there is a rumor that HART's trip to Spain a few years ago was financed by the Catholic Church and was designed to aid the Church in its fight against Communism.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
[Signature]		100-21056-41	
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			
COPIES OF THIS REPORT			
5 - Bureau b7C			
1 - [REDACTED] DIO, 3 N.D.			
1 - [REDACTED] D. of I., 2 S.O.			
3 - New York			

NY 100-21056

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Confidential Informant [redacted] submitted copies of HART's recent publications. One is an Economic Council Letter dated October 7, 1943 which discourses at length concerning recent railroad wrecks and has particular reference to the railroad wreck at Wayland, N.Y., where 30 people were killed on August 30, 1943; the Congressional Ltd., Pennsylvania railroad wreck of September 6, 1943, where over 9 were killed, and others. He then goes on to say that there is no criticism of the railroad management, but that these wrecks should be investigated, and that it has been unwise to draft railroad personnel leaving the railroads so shorthanded.

He then attacks bureaucracy in the Federal Government, saying that over three million persons are employed by the Federal Government outside of the armed services. He says that there are too many curbs on private initiative and no incentive left to the manufacturer, and suggests that a solution to many railroad problems would be more reliance on private resourcefulness. He states that business men in general are patriotic and that voluntary cooperation is better than coercion. Unnecessary regulations result in a burden and he quotes Congressman Borah who intimated that bureaucracy had developed into a "Frankenstein".

Another publication is a pamphlet, undated, but which is contained in the same envelope with the Council Letter #117, which sets forth the objectives of the New York State Economic Council. This is not being reviewed at length as much of the material has been previously reported on. However, on page 13 of this pamphlet there is listed a complete roster of the Board of Directors of the New York State Economic Council, Inc. This pamphlet is being retained as an exhibit in the New York file.

Another publication is a pamphlet dated October, 1943, authored by MERWIN KIMBALL HART, entitled "Winning a Lasting Peace". He discourses at length about America and her Allies and says on Page 7, "The point to the above summary of the outstanding national interests of our allies which are in conflict one with the other would seem obvious: The Allied Nations are united in Europe only against Hitler and Hitlerism. When they go, Allied unity ends." He continues by saying that America should be herself and America should be primarily for herself as all other nations will be primarily for themselves, and that only by following the same course can America be adequately safeguarded.

The Economic Council Letter #118, dated November 1, 1943, edited by Mr. HART, assails the taxing power as an instrument to "collectivize"

NY 100-21056

America. HART maintains that the so called ceiling on salaries is intended to be a permanent fixture even after the war, and that the administration claims authority for it in the Constitutional provision "to provide for the common defense and general welfare". HART disagrees with this. He maintains that if it were not for capital we would not today be the arsenal of democracy.

He says further that the tax program of the Treasury is an appeal to class hatred and that there has been a bureaucratic disregard of citizens rights, and he suggests that the government should encourage private enterprise, that there is now ^{no} need to change the social order, that we should avoid ceilings on salaries, that limits should be set to the taxing power, and advocates that we hold fast to the Constitution.

Another pamphlet dated November, 1943 is entitled "A Memorandum for American Policy" and was authored by GEORGE M. PEEK of Moline, Ill. This so called memorandum was prepared for and presented to the meeting of the Republican Post-War Advisory Council held at Mackinac Island, December 7, 1943. This article in substance criticizes bureaucracy and says that the criticism lies in the course the New Dealers are following, namely a totalitarian socialism directed by Federal Bureaus. The article advocated that individual freedom of initiative be fostered and safeguarded by state and local governments to stimulate incentive.

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-21056

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

b2
b7D * At New York, N.Y. - Will continue to contact confidential informant [REDACTED] regarding prosecution of the Libel suit in which HART is the plaintiff.

* Will continue to contact confidential informant [REDACTED] for copies of HART's publications.

NY 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated February 10, 1944 are [REDACTED]

b2

b7c

b7D

[REDACTED] The identity of the above informant is being withheld on request.

[REDACTED] This informant's identity is being held confidential on request.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 4

This Case Originated At **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

File No, **100-12460**

Report Made At
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date When Made Period for
Which Made
2-28-44 1-7.8.201
2-7-44

Report made by

WJM:JC

Title
MURVIN K. HART

Character of Case

SEDITION

b7c

Synopsis of Facts:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/00 BY 60327 nls/abp

On January 3, 1944, a special Grand Jury in the District of Columbia returned an indictment against 30 individuals charging them with violating Section 11 of Title 18, U.S. Code (Peace Time Sedition Statute). A list of the persons indicted is set forth. This list includes the persons who were indicted on January 4, 1943, by a special Grand Jury in the District of Columbia for having violated Section 11, Title 18, and Section 34, Title 50, U. S. Code and who were reindicted on January 3, 1944. A separate list is also set out containing the names of the persons indicted on January 4, 1943, and not reindicted on January 3, 1944. A third list of persons is also set out containing the names of persons who were considered by the Grand Jury but who were not indicted. The subjects are to be arraigned just prior to the trial and it is hoped that the trial will commence on March 1, 1944.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter to the Kansas City Field Division dated July 14, 1943, in the case entitled "UNITED STATES versus GEORGE B. WINROD with aliases, et al, SEDITION."

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

This report is being written to reflect the recent indictment of 30 persons for having violated Section 11, Title 18, U. S. Code, also known as the Peace Time Sedition Statute. In view of the fact that all of these persons are charged as conspirators only one report is being prepared to reflect

Approved and
Forwarded

Special Agent
in Charge

Do Not Write in These Spaces

Copies of This Report

- 1 - Bureau
- 2 - New York
- 1 - Washington Field

-42

100 - 21056 -
F. B. I.
FEB 28 1944
IN. I. C.
ROUTED TO: Calkins

WFO -

the indictment. A sufficient number of copies of this report are being prepared in order that the Bureau may be provided with five copies for the file entitled "UNITED STATES vs. GERALD B. WINROD, with aliases, et al; GERALD B. WINROD, Defendant, SEDITION," Bureau file 65-9483. The Bureau is also being furnished with a sufficient number of copies so that one copy may be placed in the subject file of each person listed in this report as having been reindicted, previously indicted or considered by the special Grand Jury and not indicted. Each one of these reports will contain the name of the particular individual in the title. One copy of this report is being placed in each subject file in the Washington Field Office of the persons listed in this report. Two copies of this report are being sent to the office of origin wherein investigation is being conducted concerning each person listed in this report whether indicted or not.

Docket number 73086 of the U. S. District Court, District of Columbia reflects that on January 3, 1944, the following persons were indicted by a special Grand Jury for having violated Section 11, Title 18, U. S. Code:

1. JOSEPH E. McWILLIAMS
2. GEORGE E. DEATHERAGE
3. WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY
4. JAMES TRUE
5. EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE
6. LAWRENCE DENNIS
7. HOWARD VICTOR BROENSTRUPP, alias COUNT VICTOR
CHETTER SPIRIDOVICH
8. ROBERT EDWARDS EDMONDSON
9. E. J. PARKER SAGE
10. WILLIAM ROBERT LYMAN, JR.
11. GARLAND L. ALDERMAN
12. GERALD B. WINROD

WFO -

13. ELIZABETH DILLING, was
14. CHARLES B. HUDSON
15. ELMER J. GARNER
16. GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK alias JAMES BURR HAMILTON
17. PRESCOTT FREESE DENNETT
18. GERHARD WILHELM KUNZE
19. AUGUST KLAPPROTT
20. HERMAN MAX SCHWINN
21. HANS DIEBEL
22. FRANZ K. FERENZ
23. ERNEST FREDERIK ELMHURST
24. ROBERT NOBLE
25. ELLIS O. JONES
26. EUGENE NELSON SANCTUARY
27. DAVID BAXTER, with aliases JOHN PEPPER, JOHN H. RAND
28. LOIS DE LAFAYETTE WASHBURN, alias T.N.T.
29. FRANK W. CLARK, alias G.P.
30. PETER STAHRNBERG

The indictment returned by the special Grand Jury on January 3, 1944, sets forth that in 1933 the National Socialist German Workers Party, also known as the Nazi Party, came into power in Germany upon a program announced by its leaders to destroy democracy throughout the world and establish

WFO -

fascist forms of government in place of the forms of government then existing in the United States and other countries. As a means of accomplishing their objective the Nazi Party carried on a campaign of propaganda designed and intended to impair and undermine the loyalty and morale of the military and naval forces of the United States and other countries. The persons listed above joined in this movement and program and actively cooperated with each other and with the leaders of the Nazi Party to accomplish the objectives of said Nazi Party in the United States.

The 30 persons above-listed in violation of Section 11, Title 18, U. S. Code, unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously and knowingly conspired with each other and officials of the German Reich to commit acts prohibited by Section 9, Title 18, U. S. Code in that they, with intent to interfere with, impair and influence the loyalty, morale and discipline of the military and naval forces of the United States

1. Advised, counseled and caused insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny and refusal of duty by members of the military and naval forces of the United States; and
2. Distributed and caused to be distributed written and printed matter, advising, counseling, and urging insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny and refusal of duty by members of the military and naval forces of the United States.

The indictment goes on to point out that the defendants, in carrying out the conspiracy printed, published and distributed many magazines, books, leaflets, circulars, etc., and also organized, supported, used and controlled a number of organizations, and further that through the publications and organizations they disseminated oral, written and printed statements charging, among other things, that democracy was decadent and that a National Socialist or Fascist form of government should be established in the United States.

The indictment lists many other charges disseminated by the 30 defendants and which charges are aimed at the leaders of the United States and the democratic system and are designed to undermine the loyalty and morale of the armed forces.

WFO -

Two copies of the indictment which were furnished to the Washington Field Division by the Bureau are being made a part of the Washington Field Office file in the case entitled "U.S. VS. GERALD B. WINROD, with aliases, et al, SEDITION."

Persons previously indicted by a special Grand Jury in the District of Columbia on January 4, 1943, but who were not reindicted by the special Grand Jury on January 3, 1944, are as follows:

1. WILLIAM GRIFFIN
2. NEW YORK ENQUIRER, INC.
3. PAQUITA DE SHISHMAREFF, with aliases
4. HUDSON DE PRIEST
5. WILLIAM KULLGREN
6. C. LEON DE ARYAN
7. COURT ASHER
8. OSCAR BRUMBACK
9. RALPH TOWNSEND
10. DONALD McDANIEL
11. OTTO BRENNERMANN, aka OTTO BRENNEMANN
12. JAMES F. GARNER.

Although these persons were not reindicted on January 3, 1944, the original indictment against them is still outstanding.

A number of persons were considered by the Grand Jury which returned the indictment against the 30 persons on January 3, 1944, but these persons were not indicted along with the others, and they are as follows:

WFO -

1. HENRY B. ALLEN
2. IDA MAE COOPER
3. JOHN EOGHAN KELLY
- X 4. MERVIN K. HART
5. HUBERT SCHMUEDERRICH
6. FERDINAND HANSEN
7. HOMER MAERTZ
8. LAURA INGALLS
9. JOSEPH P. KAMP
10. RALPH BEAVER STRASSBURGER

On January 17, 1944, Attorney JOHN REDDAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., advised that the special Grand Jury which returned the indictment against the 30 persons on January 3, 1944, was still in session, and that additional testimony was being given. However, he did not expect any additional subjects to be added to the 30 already indicted. He advised that as a matter of convenience for the defendants and also as a matter of economy, the defendants were to be arraigned just before the trial. He anticipated that all would plead not guilty. He further stated that unless a number of unforeseen things happen the trial should commence about March 1, 1944.

- RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

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☐ (b)(3)

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- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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100-128996

SAC, Washington

February 25, 1944

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

WERNER K. HART, with aliases;
SECURITY MATTER - C.

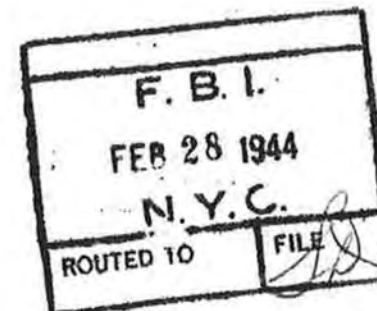
For your information there are attached photostatic copies of a memorandum from the War Division, dated January 26, 1944, in connection with the captioned case. Also attached for the information of your Office, as well as the New York Field Division, are photostatic copies of the enclosure mentioned in the attached memorandum.

Your Office is instructed to immediately contact an appropriate official of the War Division of the Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining copies of the original documents presently in the possession of that Division.

Enclosure

CC - New York City

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/cce/pt



100-21056-46

JWP:MEC
100-12460

Washington 25, D. C.
March 8, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267rus/cuc/pl

Director, FBI

Re: MERWIN K. HART with aliases
SECURITY MATTER - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated February 25, 1944, which transmitted to this office a memorandum from the War Division, dated January 26, 1944, attached to which were photostatic copies of a list of correspondence and other material, which was in possession of the War Division of the Department of Justice. This, as well as other material pertaining to instant case, was made available to Special Agent [REDACTED] Mr. JAMES R. SHARP, Chief of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, War Division. It is noted the material was furnished to Mr. SHARP by Miss EDITH LOWENSTEIN of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, who advised Agent [REDACTED] that the material is not complete as set out in the previously mentioned list, and that there is also included in the material being made available correspondence which had not previously been mentioned.

b7c
There are transmitted to the Bureau, as enclosures to this communication, one envelope, labeled "A," containing 114 documents as set out in the list furnished the Bureau by the Department, these documents consisting of photostats, copies of photostats, carbon copies, and printed material, and a second envelope, labeled "B" which contains fifty-five miscellaneous documents concerning the subject of instant case, which consist of photostats, typewritten lists, photographs, and mimeographed papers. There is also enclosed in this envelope a carbon copy of a twenty-page memorandum for Mr. JAMES R. SHARP, Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Section, dated February 15, 1944, which was written by Miss EDITH LOWENSTEIN in connection with instant case, as well as a carbon copy of an eleven-page document, captioned Exhibit B through Exhibit I, which also was written by Miss LOWENSTEIN.

It is noted Miss LOWENSTEIN advised that all of the above material which is being transmitted to the Bureau, with the exception of the material prepared by Miss LOWENSTEIN, was obtained from [REDACTED] a Government witness in the trial of JOHN E. KELLY. Miss LOWENSTEIN said it is her belief that [REDACTED] was thoroughly interviewed by Agents of the New York Field Division in connection with a good deal of this material. She further stated it is her belief that [REDACTED] has material concerning the subject in addition to that mentioned above.

100-12460-47

F. B. I.
MAR 10 1944
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO [REDACTED]

WFO 100-12460

Miss LOWENSTEIN requested that, upon completion of the examination of the enclosed material by the Bureau, it be returned to Mr. JAMES R. SHARP, Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Section, War Division, U. S. Department of Justice, for the attention of Miss EDITH LOWENSTEIN.

There being no further investigation in the Washington Field Division, this matter is being REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Very truly yours,

GUY HOTTEL
SAC

Encls.
cc-New York

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

100-128996

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: March 14, 1944

FROM : J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, with aliases;
SECURITY MATTER - G 65-11870

There are attached for your information photostatic copies of a
Censorship Submission Slip covering a letter from [REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

In view of the information contained in the above intercept it is suggested that your office give consideration to contacting [REDACTED] for the purpose of making her a confidential informant with respect to the affairs of the subject. Your attention, however, is called to the fact that [REDACTED] makes the statement, "I'm only hoping [REDACTED]". It would appear from this observation that [REDACTED] is inclined toward sympathy to the liberal or Communist elements in the United States and for this reason it is believed that prior to any contact with her the indices of the New York Office should be checked and some inquiry should be made into [REDACTED] background and sympathies. It is thought probably that the Dow Chemical Company, which she mentions as her former employer, might have information of pertinence concerning her. It should also be considered that inasmuch as [REDACTED] is quite frank in statements contained in the letter which she might reasonably expect to be censored, there is a possibility that the letter was written as a "plant" in the expectation that it would find its way into the hands of the Bureau. For this reason extreme care should be used in the event that your office decides a contact with [REDACTED] is advisable.

In the event that [REDACTED] is interviewed by agents of your office, b7c
the fact that information concerning her was received through an intercepted letter written by her should, of course, not be mentioned. b7D

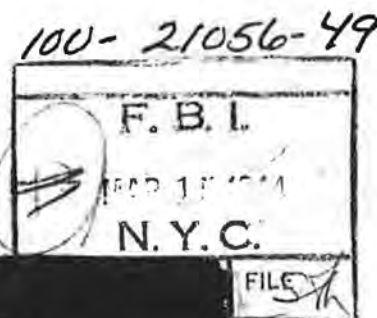
Enclosures

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60367 MJS/ucp/L

Send file
#10



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York 7, New York

EHK:DMcK
100-21056

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/27/00 BY 60267ms/juc/ky

April 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM:

Re: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was;
SECURITY MATTER - G

On April 7, 1944, [REDACTED] Special Agent's Division of the State Department, New York City, called at this office in person. He requested a review of the information contained in instant file, stating that the [REDACTED] subject was involved in a passport investigation being conducted by the State Department.

Inasmuch as this file is in a pending status, it was ascertained from Section #10 that there was no objection to furnishing a summary of the facts to [REDACTED]. The file was briefly reviewed with him. No confidential details or informants were revealed. The investigation was merely discussed in a general manner.

b7c After a short discussion concerning the facts contained in this file, the writer pressed [REDACTED] for further information concerning the nature of his investigation and concerning the facts known by him concerning the subject. At this time he stated that HART had previously been issued passports by the State Department, but that his only present interest was to obtain a summary of the facts merely in the event HART should apply for a passport in the future. The writer inquired if HART had an application for a passport presently on file, or was sponsoring the entry of anyone into the country at the present time, to which [REDACTED] replied in the negative.

The interest which [REDACTED] displayed in the facts concerning the subject did not appear consistent with the purpose of his inquiry, and for that reason the interview was brought to a conclusion and the full details of the case were not furnished. Although [REDACTED] made no statements which would indicate that he was endeavoring to get information for his private purposes, this thought was suggested to the writer because of the fact that it did not appear logical that he should be conducting an investigation merely because of the possibility that the subject might apply for a passport in the future.

The above information is being set forth in memorandum form in order that it may be brought to the attention of the liaison squad and to the attention of the person to whom the instant case is assigned.



100-21056-50
Special Agent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056**

JM

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 5/13/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/28, 5/3, 5/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was: Merwin K. Hart, Mervin K. Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - G
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Pre-trial examination in subject's one million dollar libel suit postponed to June 24, 1944. Current literature of subject and National Economic Council reviewed. Synopsis of much of subject's correspondence regarding Spanish matters set forth. Subject referred to as a fascist by [REDACTED]. Subject has communicated with [REDACTED] who is attempting to get a commission in the Army, but who is regarded as having pro-Fascist tendencies. Subject was originally considered for indictment by the District of Columbia Special Grand Jury charging sedition, but no indictment returned.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau file 100-128996 [REDACTED] dated February 10, 1944 at New York. b7c</p> <p>DETAILS: Confidential Informant [REDACTED] advised that the pre-trial examination of subject in connection with the one million dollar libel suit which he has pending against REX STOUT, Friends of Democracy, et. al., which was originally scheduled for April 24, 1944, has been postponed to June 24, 1944, at which time it is expected that the examination will take place as scheduled, and that subject will be considerably questioned regarding all of his alleged</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
5 - Bureau 1 - [REDACTED] DIO, 3ND 1 - [REDACTED] D of I, 2SG ③ - New York		100 21056-54 [Handwritten initials]	

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DATE 1/27/00 BY 60307ms/cic/pet

NY 100-21056

Spanish activity, as well as the manner in which he may have used the offices and funds of the New York State Economic Council for Spanish propaganda purposes.

Confidential Informant [redacted] was contacted and advised that she had no current information to offer from any personal contact with subject, but delivered to writer the various publications of the National Economic Council by subject which have accrued since date of last report. A brief summary of these is set forth at this point:

Under date of December 1, 1943, the Economic Council Letter, published by the National Economic Council Incorporated, indicates at the heading thereof that in addition to the addresses in New York City, New York, Utica, New York, and Chicago, Illinois, that the Council now has an office at 600 Investment Building, Washington 5, D. C. This letter, which is over subject's signature, takes issue with a quotation of Eleanor Roosevelt's "My Day" of October 15, 1940, in which she says, "At present there is waste everywhere, but then we can still afford to be wasteful". The rest of the letter, consisting of four pages, is an attack on bureaucrats and wasteful federal spending.

Enclosed with this December letter is an article in pamphlet form written by GEORGE M. PEEK and JOHN LEE COULTER entitled "Alien Influences in America". This is a fifteen page pamphlet and in its summary says, "There is no such thing as a foreign policy separate from internal policy, both are part of our American policy. It is the obvious obligation of every country first to consider the welfare of its own citizens".

The Economic Letter of January 1, 1944, is devoted to internal problems, and indicates HART believes that Congress has been pushed into the background by the press; that such powers need to be recaptured from the executive; and that the citizen must reassert his powers. HART refers also to "smearing" as an unsavory characteristic of present day politics and cites the current best seller "Under Cover" as a conspicuous example of smearing. Then HART again makes the inference that "Under Cover points out no Communists" and that there is very little satisfaction in a libel suit by anyone who is mentioned in the book.

Also included with this general letter is a book review by ALBERT JAY NOCK, an associate of subject, in which he reviews "The Republic", "The Life and Times of Simon Bolivar", "Liberal Education", "Assignment, U.S.A.".

There is also included a book review by EDGAR M. QUEENY of "Memoirs of a Superfluous Man" which was recently written by ALBERT

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JAY NOCK. Finally, there is a twelve page pamphlet with this general letter entitled "We Planned it That Way" which was written by CHANNING POLLOCK which does not appear to be material to this investigation.

The February 1, 1944, Economic Council Letter particularly attacks executive agencies which make rules and regulations, and criticizes the fact that when they are so functioning that there is no open debate and no chance for public scrutiny; and that the executive branch of the government has taken over much of the law making power. This letter also criticizes the current tax program showing wherein that the more a man earns, the more he is penalized, until a point is reached where the individual is taxed more than he earns.

There is also enclosed another pamphlet entitled "Teheran and the Post War World" written by DUHIBALD E. STEVENSON, and another book review by ALBERT JAY NOCK.

The March, 1944, Economic Council Letter deals particularly with labor, and indicates that the present policy toward labor is political, and that a new one is needed. In a pamphlet enclosed with this letter an article is again submitted by CHANNING POLLOCK "The Wages of the Wagner Act", and finally there is included a book review by ALBERT JAY NOCK.

None of the above publications appear to be of sufficient value to be retained as exhibits, and they are, therefore, destroyed.

Reference is made to the Bureau letter of February 25, 1944, to the Washington Field Office enclosing photostatic copies of lists and a short summary of the contents of the documents now in the possession of the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department of Justice, which documents pertain to correspondence between MERWIN K. HART and various individuals associated with him on his activities in behalf of Franco-Spain. These documents were made available by [REDACTED] in the course of the trial of JOHN E. KELLY. [REDACTED]

The summary is here set forth:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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NY 100-21056

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[REDACTED]

Reference is also made to letter of March 14, 1944, from the Bureau to the New York Field Division, in which it indicates that from a confidential source the Bureau learned that a [REDACTED] wrote a letter to [REDACTED]

in care of Barclays Bank, Barbados, British West Indies. In this letter [redacted] indicated that she is working [redacted] (HART) and [redacted] is a big Fascist and I don't agree with his views at all".

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that under date of January 5, 1944, subject communicated with [redacted] in care of the Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America, in which he writes to [redacted] saying that he had met a cousin of his named Mrs. DOROTHY STEWART, and that she has friends in Buenos Aires to whom she is going to write and ask that they get in touch with [redacted]. One in particular is [redacted] whose husband is an Argentinean and president of the MAHANOVITCH COMPANY in Argentina. HART believes him to be active socially and DOROTHY to be a woman about 52 years old who lives a rather gay life and HART, therefore, counsels [redacted] to watch his step.

HART then encloses a letter to [redacted] written by [redacted], who is referred to as "KIM". Kim tells of being transferred to some island and he is in care of the A.P.O. in San Francisco, and that he figures that the "New Deal Politicians" arranged to send him to this island for punishment. KIM is a corporal in the United States Army and has tried at various times to enter Officers Candidate School and obtain a commission, but it appears that to date he has been unsuccessful.

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau has submitted three reports dated May 5, 1942, August 20, 1942, and October 4, 1942, all dealing with [redacted] then a private in the United States Army. This information is rather voluminous, but in substance it indicates that [redacted] would be a poor specimen for Officers Candidate School as he is somewhat regarded as pro-Nazi; that he is an eccentric individual who is not very popular with his associates and makes no attempt to be popular; that he is under the complete domination [redacted] in complete sympathy [redacted] that [redacted] is regarded as a brilliant young man, but definitely on the eccentric side and inclined to accept and disseminate Fascist beliefs.

In the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated February 25, 1944 at Washington, D. C., it is indicated that subject MERWIN K. HART was allegedly considered by the District of Columbia Special Grand Jury for indictment charging sedition, but that no indictment was returned. This is the same Grand Jury that ultimately did return indictments against 30 individuals who are presently on trial.

It is also noted that on April 7, 1944, [redacted] of the Special Agents Division of the State Department, New York City,

NY 100-21056

b7c called at this office in person and was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] and requested a review of information contained in this file, stating that subject was involved in a passport investigation conducted by the State Department.

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-21056

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City:

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b7D Will continue the investigation of subject and contact Confidential Informant [REDACTED] about June 24, 1944, relative to the prosecution of the libel suit in which HART was plaintiff.

Will continue the contact of Confidential Informant [REDACTED] for copies of HART's publications and report on subject's current activities.

Will contact Special Agent [REDACTED] of the Special Agents Division of the State Department, New York City, and determine the nature of the investigation being conducted by the State Department.

NY 100-21036

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED], New York, New York, dated May 13, 1944, are as follows:

[REDACTED] The Law Firm of STERN and RUBENS, 551 5th Avenue, New York City. The defense of this case is being handled by [REDACTED]. The identity of the above informant is being withheld on request.

[REDACTED] This informant's identity is being held confidential on request.

T-3 - Office of Censorship. The identity of this informant is being withheld for official reasons.

New York, New York

STL:JM
100-21056

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DATE 11/27/00 BY 60267 NLS/KUC/PL

May 12, 1944

Director, FBI

RE: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, with aliases
SECURITY MATTER - G
(Bureau File No. 100-128996)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letter of March 14, 1944, suggesting that it would be well to develop [redacted] as a confidential informant for the purposes of this case.

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A search of the indices failed to reveal any Communist references, but did indicate that [redacted] had applied for a position with the Bureau, application dated March 14, 1943. The interviewer's notes characterized her as "has a very brusque, surly, independent, and tactless manner". She was unfavorably considered and it was further indicated that she was not interested in [redacted] job, but preferred to be [redacted]. [redacted] was vaguely recalled as [redacted] had only worked there nine months during 1936 and 1937, but at the [redacted] advised that [redacted] worked for him [redacted] was efficient, etc., and taking evening courses at City College of New York in journalism and psychology, [redacted] liked to argue and would take the Communist side of an argument. [redacted] then appeared to cover up this statement and protect [redacted] by saying that he didn't think she meant anything by it.

[redacted] advised [redacted] worked there from July, 1942 to January, 1944, when [redacted] fired for insubordination. [redacted] was also interviewed and they advised that several [redacted] had referred to [redacted] as a "red" and on one or two other occasions as a Bolshevik. However, neither

21056-53

Letter to Director
NY 100-21056

May 12, 1944

of these informants knew as of their own knowledge of [redacted]
talking or being a Communist, [redacted] well known for [redacted] argumen-
tative nature and was not well liked.

In view of this information, together with a suggestion in
Bureau letter that the letter [redacted] wrote to the British West
Indies might be "a plant", it is felt highly inadvisable to make any
contact [redacted] and unless advised to the contrary, no steps will
be taken in that direction.

Reference is also made to the letter dated March 8, 1944 from
Washington Field Office to the Bureau which makes reference to [redacted]
[redacted] government witness in the trial of JOHN E. KELLY. The
Bureau is reminded that [redacted] was originally a confidential
informant in this case and was exhaustively interviewed by Assistant
Director, E. J. Connelley, at the conclusion of which interview Mr.
Connelley ordered no further contact was to be made with [redacted]

Special Agent [redacted] in contacting the law firm
of STERN and RUBEN [redacted] noted that they too had talked to
[redacted], but are not using [redacted] information in the defense
of the libel suit as they give little or no credence to [redacted] statements
and characterize [redacted] as a "screwball".

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY
SAC

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: May 18, 1944

FROM : J. Edgar Hoover, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: MERWIN K. HART with aliases
SECURITY MATTER - G

There are attached for your information in connection with the captioned case photostatic copies of the following material which was received by the Bureau from the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department:

1. Memorandum dated December 17, 1942, and captioned "Merwin K. Hart, America Look at Spain."
2. Memorandum captioned "Exhibit B."
3. Memorandum dated February 15, 1944, for Mr. James R. Sharp, from Miss Edith Lowenstein.
4. Notes taken by Miss Edith Lowenstein in examining the files of [REDACTED]

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You will note that although Miss Lowenstein in her memorandum of February 15, 1944, to Mr. Sharp suggested that the Bureau be requested to conduct certain specific investigation, a notation by Mr. Sharp states that it is not believed the additional investigation is merited. For this reason the suggestions of Miss Lowenstein may be disregarded and the additional material is forwarded as a matter of interest to your office only.

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DATE 2/1/00 BY 60267NLS/pef

#60

Enclosures

-60

Send file
to

7/0

b7C

[REDACTED]

Walter Winchell

Coast-to-Coast

Notes of a Man with a Sledgehammer

Sen. Reynolds tumbled from his lofty perch in the Upper House onto the shoddy rabble-rousing circuit...As a freak attraction...It wasn't much of a drop for him. He never rose to the heights that his position demanded...Reynolds will attempt to pull the ostrich over American eyes...But his act has flop written all over it...Americans won't forget that he returned from a visit to Germany with hosannas for the Nazi way of low-life...He voted against defense measures, winked at peculiar groups and impeded the war effort with a flood of demagoguery...Reynolds has been consistent...He was always wrong. The Capitol-Hill-billy can't stop us from winning the peace...His alibi that the people support him is a laugh...He quit the Senate because he knew that voters would toss him on his ear...By officially joining the rabble-rousers, Reynolds' peculiar career comes to a welcome finish...No one can doubt he has all the qualifications for a has-been...Hey, Martin, move over!

Variety reports: "When Sen. Wheeler declared bitterly that the bill (banning the sponsorship of newscasters) was 'dead' he blamed a little handful of people in New York"...Little Handful of People? What's that—a new way of spelling Winchell?

Some critics haven't stopped trying to scratch out Mrs. Roosevelt's eyes. Their wrath runs wild because the First Lady voices political opinions. They forget that the President's wife has the same right of free speech enjoyed by columnists, editorialists and politicians...The hecklers never got blue in the face when the wives of Congressmen and Senators wrote for a rag later barred from the mails because of its seditious content.

In 1937 a German general wrote: "Time always works against any continental power at war with England; that has been proved in the past, and is entirely true today, when highly developed armament industries depend more than ever on overseas imports of raw materials. A continental power wishing to defeat England must have either Russia or the United States as an ally in order to have any chance of victory."

That was written by Nazi Gen. Von Rundstedt—who is now commanding the Nazi forces in Western Europe.

The contemptible Nazi theories aren't anything new. Other Germans have been afflicted with similar poison. The following quote is taken from a book written by a history professor at the Univ. of Berlin, called "Politik" (Vol. 1, page 74): "Those who preach the nonsense of eternal peace do not understand Aryan national life"...The book was published in 1896!

One State Dep't official removed his kid gloves and branded Fascist Spain as "a dictatorship under debt to Hitler." That fact has screamed its truth for years. It isn't news to Americans...But what's the sense of saying Franco is indebted to Hitler and then send tankers loaded with oil to Spain? What's the good of one State Dep't official glaring at Franco—while another official from the same department (our ambassador to Spain) balances tea-cups with the bloody dictator and sends him valentines? Why are Franco's diplomats still allowed to do Hitler's work over here?...To state that Franco is indebted to our deadly enemies and all at the same time with him is sheer hypocrisy. Let's follow the tough talk aimed at Franco with something more concrete—like a brick.

Obstructionists are swooping down on the War Labor Board and strafing it with loud charges that the agency is crushing liberty. The WLB is accused of hatching plots to undermine our economic system...But they brush off one vital fact: WLB decisions have been accepted by more than 5,000 American concerns in the interest of the war effort. And a few days after the invasion, for the first time since the WLB was formed, its docket was entirely clear of strikes. That agency deserves a salute for the top-notch job it has accomplished on the labor-management front.

Merwin K. Hart has been denounced by Supreme Court Justice Jackson as a "pro-fascist." He has spread pro-Franco propaganda. He was the chairman of a group that listed among its speakers avowed pro-fascists. He once gave a dinner for Cong. Dies that was attended by the now convict Bund Chief Fritz Kuhn. Yet he now runs an organization that influences important Americans. His friends include some of our most powerful Americans.

World Service (the official Nazi overseas propaganda organization) once named Cong. Rankin on their international fascist roll of honor. We don't recall that he ever denounced the Nazis for doing that—although he continues to make foul attacks against American newspapermen who criticize him...Cong. Hoffman will never live down the news photo showing him posing with a female pro-Nazi...Gerald L. K. Smith denies he is or was ever connected with any pro-Nazi tribes. Hmmm!...Now Smith announces that he will campaign in behalf of certain legislators, who do not repudiate his support...They just throw mud at those who make their records public and attempt to have them investigated or muzzled. They have never urged that Gerald L. K. Smith should be probed.

Obstructionist clans that disbanded after Pearl Harbor as their contribution to unity are now in action again. They have new names, but the same old odor...To repeat, here are the new titles that the disbanded Klan is hiding behind: In Pennsylvania it's "The Keystone Patriotic Society." In Georgia it's "The Sons of America." In Michigan it's "The Sons of Liberty." Units of these outfits are now being organized throughout the South and Mid-West...Those political revolvers in Texas are just revolting. They gab about protecting the Constitution and spread hatred that blots every ideal the Constitution stands for.

Joseph P. Kamp has been turning out Stale Old Bunk aimed at this reporter. Some chumps have been bamboozled by it. But what is Kamp's record?...A few years ago he was the editor of a rag that was praised by World Service, the official Nazi overseas propaganda outfit. The rag's name: "The Awakener." Published by Lawrence Dennis, now on trial for alleged sedition...Later he started another group with the lily-white title: "The Constitutional Educational League"...Kamp claims to be exposing Communists but he once urged "patriots" to withhold information regarding Communist activities from the FBI...From unknown sources he seems to get money to maintain offices all over the country...There is a close relationship between Dies' staff and Kamp. His outfit was named as a tool for alleged seditionists in the initial indictments period.

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR, JUNE 16, 1944

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- Mr. B. C. Brown
- Mr. Charters
- Mr. Giddens
- Mr. Grogan
- Mr. Harlan
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Malley
- Mr. McLaughlin
- Mr. Quinn
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Walter Winchell

Coast-to-Coast

Notes of a Man with a Sledgehammer

Sen. Reynolds tumbled from his lofty perch in the Upper House onto the shoddy rabble-rousing circuit... As a freak attraction... It wasn't much of a drop for him. He never rose to the heights that his position demanded... Reynolds will attempt to pull the ostrich over American eyes... But his act has flop written all over it... Americans won't forget that he returned from a visit to Germany with hosannas for the Nazi way of low-life... He voted against defense measures, winked at peculiar groups and impeded the war effort with a flood of demagoguery... Reynolds has been consistent... He was always wrong. The Capitol-Hill-billy can't stop us from winning the peace... His alibi that the people support him is a laugh... He quit the Senate because he knew that voters would toss him on his ear... By officially joining the rabble-rousers, Reynolds' peculiar career comes to a welcome finish... No one can doubt he has all the qualifications for a has-been... Hey, Martin, move over!

Variety reports: "When Sen. Wheeler declared bitterly that the bill (banning the sponsorship of newscasters) was 'dead' he blamed 'a little handful of people in New York'... Little Handful of People? What's that—a new way of spelling Winchell?"

Some critics haven't stopped trying to scratch out Mrs. Roosevelt's eyes. Their wrath runs wild because the First Lady voices political opinions. They forget that the President's wife has the same right of free speech enjoyed by columnists, editorialists and politicians... The hecklers never got blue in the face when the wives of Congressmen and Senators wrote for a rag later barred from the mails because of its seditious content.

In 1937 a German general wrote: "Time always works against any continental power at war with England; that has been proved in the past, and is entirely true today, when highly developed armament industries depend more than ever on overseas imports of raw materials. A continental power wishing to defeat England must have either Russia or the United States as an ally in order to have any chance of victory."

That was written by Nazi Gen. Von Rundstedt—who is now commanding the Nazi forces in Western Europe.

The contemptible Nazi theories aren't anything new. Other Germans have been afflicted with similar poison. The following quote is taken from a book written by a history professor at the Univ. of Berlin, called "Politik" (Vol. 1, page 74): "Those who preach the nonsense of eternal peace do not understand Aryan national life"... The book was published in 1896!

One State Dep't official removed his kid gloves and branded Fascist Spain as "a dictatorship under debt to Hitler." That fact has screamed its truth for years. It isn't news to Americans... But what's the sense of saying Franco is indebted to Hitler and then send tankers loaded with oil to Spain? What's the good of one State Dep't official glaring at Franco—while another official from the same department (our ambassador to Spain) balances tea-cups with the bloody dictator and sends him valentines? Why are Franco's diplomats still allowed to do Hitler's work over here?... To state that Franco is indebted to our deadly enemies and sit at the same table with him is sheer hypocrisy. Let's follow the tough talk aimed at Franco with something more concrete—like a brick.

Obstructionists are swooping down on the War Labor Board and strafing it with loud charges that the agency is crushing liberty. The WLB is accused of hatching plots to undermine our economic system... But they brush off one vital fact: WLB decisions have been accepted by more than 5,000 American concerns in the interest of the war effort. And a few days after the invasion, for the first time since the WLB was formed, its docket was entirely clear of strikes. That agency deserves a salute for the top-notch job it has accomplished on the labor-management front.

DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/1/00 BY 60270US/CLJ/JS

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(3)

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

100-128996

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: September 30,

FROM : John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was
SECURITY MATTER - G

A review of the Bureau file reflects that the captioned case is in an extremely delinquent condition in your Office. For this reason every effort should be made to complete the outstanding investigation in the immediate future.

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Searched _____
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Indexed _____
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SEP 30 - 1964	
N. Y.	
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056 CS**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 10/12/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/19-23, 25, 27; 10/3/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE MERWIN KIMBALL HART, with aliases: Merwin K. Hart, Mervin K. Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Pre-trial examination in subject's one million dollar suit against REX STOUT et al still pending. [REDACTED] advises case has not been placed on Court calendar for trial. Current literature of NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL of which subject is President reviewed. [REDACTED] furnished a copy of statement made by [REDACTED] concerning activities and background of subject and [REDACTED] Agent [REDACTED] State Department, advised investigation conducted by them was predicated upon employment of [REDACTED] as a clerk in the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Subject still resides at 141 East 56th Street, New York City and continues to maintain offices in Empire State Building, New York City.</p>			
- P -			
<p>REFERENCE: Bureau file number 100-128996 [REDACTED] Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 13, 1944 at New York, New York.</p>			
<p>DETAILS: [REDACTED] advised that at the present time the pre-trial examination of MERWIN K. HART in the one million dollar suit against REX STOUT, FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY and others, has not been conducted, although the defendants had a Court Order</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 1 - Col. [REDACTED] of I, 2SC ③ - New York		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 100 21056 65 </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">[Handwritten initials]</div>	

giving them the privilege of examining HART before the trial. [REDACTED] stated that it was his opinion that the examination would never be conducted and consequently the suit would not be prosecuted further by HART. He advised that prior to placing the action on the Court calendar for trial in the New York State Supreme Court, Utica, New York, it would be necessary for HART to submit to such examination and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HART, upon examination, would be questioned thoroughly concerning his tie-up with the FRANCO Government of Spain together with the methods by which he obtained money for the support of his organization, The National Economic Council, and also propaganda work in which HART had been engaged within the past few years. The informant stated that the attorneys for the defendants had so advised HART's attorney of their intentions and it was his belief that because of the personal nature of the contemplated examination, HART would not submit to the same. Since his appeal to vacate, the Court Order for such examination had been terminated in favor of the defendants. The informant further advised that at the present time the attorney [REDACTED] for HART in his action against STOUT was one BARTEL GORMAN, present Corporation Counsel for the City of Utica, and the Trial Counsel for HART in such action was EDGAR H. A. CHAPMAN, a member of the firm of DEWITT, VAN AKEN, NAST AND CHAPMAN located at 420 Lexington, Avenue, New York, New York. He further stated that Mr. CHAPMAN had more or less indicated to the attorneys for the defendants that HART had no intention of proceeding with instant action but he would not discontinue the same because of adverse publicity that he would gain from such discontinuation and also because such proceedings would more or less admit the charges made by REX STOUT and the Friends of Democracy concerning HART's propaganda activities.

[REDACTED] in addition to the foregoing, advised that he had received information [REDACTED] to the effect that at the present time HART is the "guiding genius" of two other suits presently pending against [REDACTED], author of "Under Cover". He advised that these suits are the case of CONRAD CHAPMAN versus JOHN ROY CARLSON pending in Boston, Massachusetts and the case of GEORGE WASHINGTON ROBINETTE versus JOHN ROY CARLSON presently pending in Chicago, Illinois. He stated that the aforementioned conclusion had been rejected by attorneys representing [REDACTED] in Chicago, namely LORD, BISSELL and KADYK, 135 LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois, who were conducting a pre-trial examination of [REDACTED] in connection with his suit against [REDACTED]

The informant further advised that at the present time in Chicago, Illinois, there is pending a companion suit against the BLUE NETWORK and

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WALTER WINCHELL concerning statements made by WINCHELL about CARLSON's book "Under Cover", and statements pertaining to the plaintiff, ROBINETTE, by CARLSON.

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[redacted] had information [redacted] to the effect that all material [redacted] relating to HART's propaganda work had been furnished to Mr. ROGGE of the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C. for Mr. ROGGE's consideration relative to any contemplated action against HART and also for use in the present Sedition Trial being held in Washington against ELIZABETH DILLING and 30 other defendants.

[redacted] was contacted and advised that he had no current information to offer concerning any personal contact which he has had with the subject, but he delivered to the reporting Agent the various publications of the National Economic Council written by the subject and others which have accrued since the date of the last report on instant case. A brief summary of these publications is as follows:

In the ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER for April, 1944, published by the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York and signed by MERWIN K. HART, President, it was indicated that such letter dealt with the coming Presidential Election and also with the question of State Rights versus Federal Government. In such letter, HART states, "The coming election must not become a mere contest for political patronage. America faces a vital issue. That issue is: Shall we accept complete centralization, with almost certain dictatorship, or shall we retain the rights of local self-government, guaranteed in our State and National Constitutions. . . . Some readers will tell us the States have no freedom sovereignty, or independence. Under the present Administration, they have certainly become mere shadows of their former selves. . . . The chief instrument employed to invade the jurisdiction of the States is an obliging and cooperative Supreme Court. . . . If we Americans are to retain our freedom, our right of local self-government, and have an efficient National Administration, we must act promptly. The time to act is the coming election. We must then choose public servants who will re-awaken the States to their responsibilities, and who will oust the Federal Government from fields belonging to the States. If we fail to do this, the Republic which we are now fighting to preserve, will almost certainly become Totalitarian in form and Despotic in its administration. This will be little different from the Fascism we are now seeking to destroy in Europe."

Included with the aforementioned ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER there was also the publication for April, 1944 entitled ECONOMIC REVIEW OF BOOKS published by the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL and edited by ALBERT JAY NOCK. In this four page publication the editor reviewed the three books, "Bureaucracy Runs Amuck" by LAWRENCE SULLIVAN, "As We Go Marching" by JOHN T. FLYNN, and "A Time Is Born" by GARET GARRETT.

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b7D [REDACTED] received at the same time a pamphlet entitled, "Should the United States Accept More European Refugees?", which was a reprint of a debate between Congressman SAMUEL DICKSTEIN and MERWIN K. HART. The pamphlet was published by the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL. Also included with the aforementioned publication was a hand-out entitled "Straw No. 1", dealing with the Supreme Court of the United States. In such pamphlet among other things, it was stated "In plain English, this 'pernicious oversimplification' philosophy of Justice FRANKFURTER says to the Congress of the United States: Pass whatever laws you please. Word them as clearly as you will. We will then give them our own meaning."

In the ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER for May, 1944 the subject, MERWIN K. HART, dealt with the powers of the President and how progressive educators favor centralizing all powers in the President. In such letter he states: "There is a plot afoot in America today to subject our representative Republic to the Chief Executive as master, to make the Congress a mere debating Society - the Judiciary but an echo of the master's voice. . . . The sovereignty of our States, the guardian of local self-government, is being destroyed. . . . The Executive is seeking to destroy the authority of the Congress. . . . The Executive has assumed control of public money. . . . The treaty-making power of the Senate has been ignored. . . . Our Federal Judiciary is being made subject to the Executive. . . . An equally determined effort is being made to gain Federal control of the public schools. . . . Its adoption would make every public school teacher a friendly agent of the New Deal. It would encourage him to accept and spread whatever ideology might suit the Federal Bureau of Education. It is not surprising that so-called 'progressive educators' are behind this bill. For one of the principle objects of these 'forward-looking' gentry is, to use the words of one of their leaders, 'the uprooting of ingrained concepts and motives' which are 'rooted in the stereotyped loyalties and opinions of the public mind itself'."

Included with the aforementioned Council Letter was the May, 1944 ECONOMIC REVIEW OF BOOKS edited by ALBERT JAY NOCK. This publication dealt

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with the following new books: "How New Will the Better World Be?" by Professor BECKER, "Socialism Is Not Inevitable" by HENRY K. KOZMIAN, "Capitalism the Creator" by CARL SNYDER, "Plea for Liberty" by BERNANOS, and several other incidental publications.

Likewise, there was enclosed with the two aforementioned publications was a pamphlet entitled "Who Said Freedom of Speech" which was a reprint of an address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] "Straw No. 2", included with the above mentioned literature contained a picture of the SEWELL AVERY's ejection from the premises of MONTGOMERY WARD AND COMPANY in Chicago, together with a short article on the back about the President and his cooperation with the Communists, as well as that of Mr. BIDDLE.

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Literature furnished by [REDACTED] which was released by the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL during June, 1944 included the following ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER wherein the subject, MERWIN K. HART described the European invasion, the coming election and suggested plans for platforms for both major political parties. In such letter HART states: "Shall we retain the American system, in which each individual is free to develop his own talents without arbitrary Government interference, to enjoy and dispose of the fruits of his own labor without confiscatory taxation, and to risk his savings in any lawful enterprise? Or shall we give our lives and fortunes into the keeping of appointed bureaucrats whom we do not know, whom we do not elect, and whom we cannot hold to account? . . . Hence, the National Economic Council urges both parties to include the following planks in their platforms. (1) The Congress, under the Constitution, is the policy and lawmaking branch of government. We shall work for such changes in the organization and operation of the Congress as shall enable it to exercise effectively its exclusive right to formulate policies and to frame and pass laws in the interest of the whole people. (2) The representatives of the people, under the Constitution, are given the mastery over the public purse. They must reclaim it for it has been largely surrendered to the Executive who now has the management of the public revenue almost wholly at his discretion. We shall take such measures as shall return to the Congress its exclusive right to decide for what objects public monies shall be spent, how much shall be spent and who shall spend it. . . . There come times in the life of nations when a rebirth of freedom is indispensable. Such a time has come to the United States. For one hundred and forty-three years our people followed the Constitution, which Gladstone called 'the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man'. But during the last twelve years an alien philosophy has crept

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into public affairs. It has brought us to the brink of disaster. The American people are united on winning the war abroad. But of equal importance is the people's struggle at home to recapture mastery over their own government."

The ECONOMIC COUNCIL REVIEW OF BOOKS for June, 1944 dealt entirely with a discussion of text books and their use in the public school system.

Other June, 1944 literature received included a reprint of comments on Mr. WILKIE's article "Federal Power and States Rights" by ARCHIBALD E. STEVENSON.

"Straw No. 3", published for June, 1944 deals with Communists in the Government and requests that each party and candidates of such party divorce themselves and purge themselves of any taint of alien ideology.

It is to be noted that in WALTER WINCHELL's column appearing in the New York Daily Mirror June 16, 1944 he stated:

"MERWIN K HART has been denounced by Supreme Court Justice JACKSON as a 'pro-fascist.' He has spread pro-Franco propaganda. He was the chairman of a group that listed among its speakers avowed pro-fascists. He once gave a dinner for Cong. DIES that was attended by the now convict Bund Chief FRITZ KUHN. Yet he now runs an organization that influences important Americans. His friends include some of our most powerful Americans."

[REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, made available to the New York Office a statement furnished to the informant by [REDACTED] relative to activities and background data concerning the subject and [REDACTED] This statement is set forth as follows:

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages.

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Agent [redacted] of the Agents Division of the State Department, United States Post Office Building, New York, New York, advised the writer that Agent [redacted] is now assigned to the State Department in Washington, D. C. However Agent [redacted] reviewed the file relative to the instant investigation and it was indicated that originally the State Department had conducted a passport investigation pertaining to the request of [redacted] for a passport to travel and study in certain Central America and South American countries. Such application was made May 14, 1941 and was thereafter granted by the Passport Division of the State Department.

Agent [redacted] advised that their file revealed that subsequently [redacted] was employed and is still employed as a clerk in the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. An investigation had been conducted during March, 1944 pursuant to a request received from Washington, D. C. concerning the subject's background because of allegations received by the State Department that he was pro-Fascist, associated with the Silver Shirts and was a propaganda outlet for the FRANCO government. [redacted] stated that these allegations naturally reflected upon an employee of the State Department.

The investigation conducted by the State Department contained no additional information concerning the subject other than that which has been set forth in instant report and in prior reports submitted in instant case.

Investigation conducted by the reporting Agent reveals that the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL of which HART is President, still maintains offices in the Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. It was also ascertained that the subject still resides at 141 East 56th Street, New York, New York, and according to the doorman at such address the subject has given no indication that he intends to move at any time soon.

Bureau letter to New York dated May 18, 1944 enclosed photostatic copies of information and documents in the possession of the Foreign Agents' Registration Section of the Department of Justice. It is to be noted that included therein is information furnished by [redacted] to Miss EDITH LOWENSTEIN of the Department of Justice. It is further noted that [redacted] at the trial of JOHN E. KELLY and information furnished to Miss LOWENSTEIN is either in the possession of [redacted] or in the files maintained [redacted]. A summary of such information is herewith set forth:

[redacted] a detailed criticism by CARDENAS on HART's book "America Look at Spain". (CARDENAS being the Ambassador from Spain to the United States.) This information was transmitted from HART [redacted] and drafts of the book were submitted to CARDENAS, Father TALBOT and many others.

Several allegedly original work sheets [redacted] enumerate series of propaganda slogans, [redacted] had been incorporated in the chapters of the book. The slogans were identical with those used by Axis propagandists.

b7c [redacted] advised Miss LOWENSTEIN that she had been instructed [redacted] to communicate with KELLY on technical questions which might occur [redacted]. However [redacted] identified KELLY with the Spanish Library of Information and called up there.

Articles written by HART and distributed in the form of pamphlets are as follows: - Are there subversive activities in our schools? Address by HART December 13, 1939; Revolution through "Social Science" in the schools, broadcast made in Utica, New York on May 7, 8, and 10, 1940.

[redacted] had dinner with HART, JANE ANDERSON and husband on May 21, 1939. JANE ANDERSON (now under indictment) had just returned from a visit from FRANCO and the Pope. The contents of the conversation centered around that the United States must be kept from entering the war.

Some correspondence in her files indicate communications between [redacted] who is connected with the Bombal Press Service and [redacted] Chicago, Illinois, who according to [redacted] is a German Agent.

NY 100-21056

and a Native-Fascist. Some instructions among her papers indicate that HART coached CARDENAS for the speech which was made by CARDENAS before the Foreign Police Association in Chicago on October 11, 1938.

P E N D I N G

NY 100-21056

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

b2
b7D Will continue the investigation of the subject's activities and will again contact [REDACTED] relative to the prosecution in the libel suit instituted by HART against REX STOUT, FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY and others.

Will continue to contact [REDACTED] for copies of HART's publications.

NY 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated October 12, 1944 at New York, New York are:

NY 2-2150

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Both of the aforementioned individuals requested that their names be carried as confidential.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-21056 amb**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/6/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/21, 27, 28/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE MERWIN KIMBALL HART, with aliases; Merwin K. Hart, Mervin K. Hart			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - G
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [REDACTED] advised subject's suit against REX STOUT, FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY and others was discontinued as of 11/16/44. [REDACTED] advised that no further literature has been received from subject.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- C -</p> <p>REFERENCES: Bureau File #100-128996.</p> <p>Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated October 12, 1944 at New York City, New York.</p> <p>DETAILS: [REDACTED] advised the reporting agent that the subject's million dollar libel and slander suit against REX STOUT, FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY and others had been discontinued by the plaintiffs attorney as of November 16, 1944. He further advised that a formal stipulation of discontinuance had been filed with the clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in Utica, New York. This informant also advised it would be impossible for Mr. HART to reopen the present litigation by the institution of a new suit since the statute of limitations had passed so far as the acts upon which the action was based were concerned. This informant also stated it was his opinion the plaintiff had decided to discontinue because he had knowledge that should the defendants proceed with the examination before trial, which examination was predicated upon a court order obtained by them, it would necessitate a searching inquiry of the plaintiff's background, work and finances. In this regard</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
5 Bureau 1 Col [REDACTED] D of I, 2SC 3 New York		100-21056-66	

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NY 100-21056

the informant advised that in preparation for such examination they had employed a special investigator who had furnished them with a 110 page report relating to the background investigation of the subject. [REDACTED]

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b7D The confidential investigative report was reviewed by the reporting agent and it was noted that the same did not contain any additional information which has not been heretofore set out in investigative reports.

[REDACTED] stated to the reporting agent that apparently she had been dropped from the mailing list of Mr. HART's organization, THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC., since she had not received any additional literature, since the literature mentioned by the agent in the referenced report.

All logical leads having been covered, this case is being closed.

- C L O S E D -

NY 100-21056

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of
Special Agent [REDACTED] dated January 6, 1945 at New York City,
New York are as follows:

[REDACTED]

It should be noted that the confidential investigative
report referred to [REDACTED] and
reviewed by the reporting agent was prepared by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Both of the above mentioned individuals requested
their names be carried as confidential and further-
more, [REDACTED] requested that the name of his
confidential investigator not be divulged.

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SPEEL LETTER

ACTION

SPEED LETTER

[illegible]

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.

350 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Lackawanna 4-1665

MERWIN K. HART
PRESIDENT
THOMAS CREIGH
VICE PRESIDENT
A. MARGARET SCHMID
VICE PRESIDENT &
ASSISTANT TREASURER

GLENN G. MUNN
TREASURER
MCKAY TWOMBLY
SECRETARY
SIBYLLA SCHILLING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 13, 1946

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Court House
Foley Square, New York

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DATE 2/1/00 BY 60327ms/kcp/L

Gentlemen:

Confirming my conversation by 'phone this morning with one of your representatives, I am enclosing a sheet received by one of our staff members recently. It was addressed to her at this office, and forwarded to her on vacation, and brought back by her when she returned.

The thing may be of no importance; but there seemed a chance that there might be something about it that you would like to see.

I am enclosing the envelope with the letter.

Sincerely yours,

Merwin K. Hart
Merwin K. Hart
President

Enclosures

Files - New York Office

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References

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THE NATION

America-Firster Hart 'Selling' Franco

By ALEXANDER H. UHL

A new campaign to "sell" the American people on the virtues of Spain's Fascist Dictator Franco is now under way by Merwin K. Hart, head of the reactionary



Merwin K. Hart

National Economic Council, one time America Firster and now a leader in American Action, Inc.

Hart is no stranger in the hosannas-to-Franco field. As far back as 1940 he was reporting on Franco's regime in laudatory terms, making the absurd claim that there was "no want in national Spain." His new tack is similar.

A few days ago PM reported that Hart was en route to Spain as Franco's personal guest. Actually he already was there and we now have his first report in the Aug. 15 number of the *Economic Letter*. It's dated "Madrid, August, 1947."

The Hart letter is titled "Let's Discover Spain." Actually there is very little on what to discover in Spain in his article but a great deal of abuse for the State Dept. and, as Hart puts it, "left wing publications such as the *Nation*, the *New Republic* and PM" which astonishingly enough, according to Hart, are supposed to be dictating the department's policy on Franco.

Among the testimony that Hart cites to show "whether the Franco regime is, or is not, good for the Spanish people" is an article written for the *New York Herald-Tribune* on June 6 by Allen Raymond. Hart cites:

"Apparently there is no belief whatever here [he was writing from Madrid] among qualified foreign observers that this government is likely to change back to a republic for many years. When one brings up the subject of the Spanish government in exile, or of political leaders who have been away from the country for ten years," [page Alvarez del Vayo and other Spanish revolutionaries living comfortably in New York!! "all one reaps is a laugh."

This is supposed to prove that Franco's regime is firmly entrenched and that there is no chance for its overthrow. He uses another paragraph in the Raymond story to imply that the mass of the Spanish people will support Franco.

Following is the second attempt by Hart to use Raymond to prove his point:

"In ten years, they say, the new regime has become so solidly entrenched that it is as secure as any regime in Europe for any foreseeable future. Foreign and domestic observers of politics have been wrong before. But there is a remarkable unanimity here in Madrid among people of all classes with whom I have talked, who say the Spaniards will accept some indefinite continuance of Generalissimo Franco and then of the monarchy, rather than return to the anarchy of the early 1930's."

The general impression of Hart's handling of the Raymond dispatches is that they show the strength of the Franco regime. Hart's reading of Allen Raymond must have been highly superficial. For in a series of dispatches written in Geneva during July, 1947, Raymond really tore into what was going on in Spain.

Here is the lead of a dispatch that speaks of Franco's "shaky dictatorship" and his "fraudulent referendum" on the succession.

This, of course, speaks for itself:

By Allen Raymond
By Wireless to the *Herald Tribune* Copyright, 1947, New York Tribune Inc.
GENEVA, July 29.—The shaky dictatorship of Generalissimo Francisco Franco in Spain cannot be overthrown by any force within that country, but it would fall very quickly if the British and American governments, which have expressed their disapproval of it, would implement that disapproval by economic sanctions. That was the conclusion borne in upon me inescapably during my recent stay in Spain at the time of Franco's fraudulent referendum.

Again Raymond left no doubt as to his feel-and Spain is a land of "tyranny and semi-starvation."

predicted that a bloodier civil war than that of the '30's was brewing.

The next explosion of civil war, I was told in Spain, will be far more sanguinary than the civil-war of the 1930s, and it is merely a matter of time before that explosion occurs unless the bulk of the people get some relief from tyranny and semi-starvation.

NY HERALD TRIBUNE JULY 30, 1947

But most of the Hart article is a diatribe against President Roosevelt, the United Nations and those elements of the State Dept. that are supposed to be following the Communist line.

It is not surprising," Hart writes, "that our State Dept., still well stocked with left wingers, should continue the policy of hostility to the Franco government."

One hint that Hart gives of the campaign to get the United States to go back on the United Nations resolution condemning Franco is contained in the following:

"It is believed by some persons both in the United States and Spain that many in the Administration, including the State Dept., now see the unwisdom of the policy now long pursued toward Spain and would like to modify it but do not know how to do so."

What Hart wants us to do is to name a full ambassador to Spain—we have not appointed one since the resignation of Norman Armour—then "take steps to learn how we can strengthen Spain in economic ways and how Spain can aid us economically."

There is, of course, the inevitable pay-off.

"War with Soviet Russia may not come," says Hart, "but if it does come we will need Spain greatly—if not desperately. Let's sit down with Spain and talk over how we can be of assistance to each other."

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N. Y. ...

DATED ...

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION



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ELECTRONIC TUBE CORPORATION

1200 EAST MERMAID AVENUE
CHESTNUT HILL, PHILA. 18, PA.

TELEPHONE: CHESTNUT HILL 2-6800

December 15, 1947

Federal Bureau Of Investigation
U. S. Court House, Foley Square,
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen;

*100-21056**
4 mem rep
I have been told by a very good friend of mine, rather an extreme leftist, that another very good friend of mine, Mr. Merwin K. Hart of New York, rather an extreme rightist, was "once registered by the F.B.I. as an agent of Franco Spain ... and had to declare himself to be the agent of a foreign power"

Mr. Hart has been accused by the Daily Worker, I know, of being an "apologist for Franco" etc. and I have read his book "America Look At Spain", but I do not believe that he is, or was actually an "agent of a foreign power".

Since you must have a file on Mr. Hart and a record of registered agents of foreign governments, would you be kind enough to verify for me the accuracy of the above statement.

Yours very truly,

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ELECTRONIC TUBE CORPORATION

1200 EAST MERMAID AVENUE
PHILA. 18, PA. - CHESTNUT HILL - 6800

December 30, 1947

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Court House,
Foley Square,
New York, N. Y.

Attn: [REDACTED]

b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

You probably will not remember me, but I met you one day in the Empire State Building about a year ago. In any event, I wonder if you would be kind enough to help me out?

Two weeks ago I wrote the Bureau asking for some information; a copy of the letter is enclosed and is self-explanatory.

If your office is not permitted to give out this information, would you be kind enough to let me know. If, on the other hand, it is permissible, and it seems to me that it should be a matter of public record, would you ask someone to answer the letter. I intend sending a copy of your reply to my friend in Hollywood, unless you direct that you should not be quoted.

With kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,

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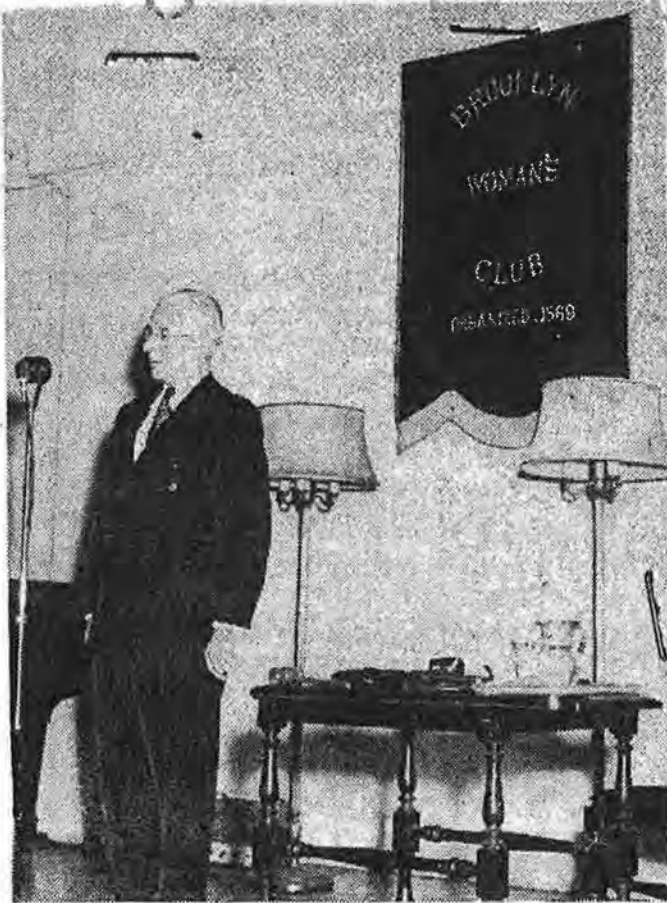
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DELIVERING "CANCELLED" SPEECH—Merwin K. Hart, former head of the America First Party, speaking before the Brooklyn Women's Republican Club, despite the refusal of club president Isabel Rhees Kappeyne to introduce him.

Crews Explains 'Ban' On Hart, Hits Fascists

John R. Crews, Kings County Republican leader, stuck to his position today as opposed to all "Fascist, Communist or other subversive" speakers before Republican meetings in Brooklyn. He made the comment following the swift turn of events which marked a speech of Merwin K. Hart, one-time head of the America First party, before the Brooklyn Women's Republican Club.

Mr. Hart was scheduled to speak before the group at the Brooklyn Women's Club, 114 Pierrepont St., yesterday at 3:15 p.m. However, the speech was cancelled at the last minute by club president Mrs. Isabel Rhees Kappeyne, who said there "seems to be some confusion as to the desirability of Mr. Hart as a speaker." It developed that Mr. Crews had informed Mrs. Kappeyne of his objections to the speaker.

He criticized the Palestine partition, asserting that "many of the Jewish faith are against it." He noted that, in the United Nations, "small nations like Liberia and Haiti voted for partition of the Holy Land."

"The United Nations, in which I have no confidence whatsoever," he said, "so far has yielded up nothing but trouble." He wondered why we did not send financial aid to Spain, which he called "the strongest country against communism in the world."

As he spoke, Mrs. Kappeyne, with about six other club members, sat resolutely in the lobby and reminded reporters:

"Notice that I'm not in this meeting. I'm against it and I'll have nothing to do with it," she said.

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Brooklyn Eagle
JAN 10 1948

him," Mr. Crews said, "but from what I've heard, he is of the extreme right and we are highly unsympathetic toward him."

"Both parties in Brooklyn have tried to live up to an ideal of tolerance. I was aroused at all the calls I received protesting Mr. Hart's scheduled speech, from persons who read the notice about it in the Brooklyn Eagle."

Stopped Reds in Past

"I have stopped Communist speakers in the past and I will continue to oppose Fascist, Communist and other subversive speakers in the future."

Mr. Hart, who is president of the National Economic Council, showed up at the meeting despite the cancellation with his public relations director, H. M. Griffiths.

They took seats at the back of the large hall—a few feet away from a tea table decorated with two Russian dolls holding flowers.

A few minutes later Mrs. Kappeyne arrived and told reporters "he's not going to speak."

Ladies Bewildered

After a Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, Mrs. Kappeyne dropped her bombshell to a rather bewildered audience of 175 women—about three times the usual attendance.

"Ladies," she said firmly, "at this time it is customary, of course, to introduce our speaker. Mr. Merwin K. Hart had consented to be our speaker and, up to last night, I supposed everything had been arranged. However, I heard last night that Mr. Hart is not quite acceptable to the Republican party in Brooklyn. This I deeply regret."

Then, asserting that she was only a "soldier carrying out the orders of my commander-in-chief," Mrs. Kappeyne invited the ladies to have tea.

As the astounded women sat in silence, broken by a few expressions of disapproval, a Manhattanite, Mildred Kearney, took the floor and spoke as Mrs. Kappeyne left the room. Mrs. Kearney said she was chairman of the American League for Good Government in New York.

"I came here to hear Mr. Hart speak," said the red-haired Mrs. Kearney, "and I am taking it upon myself to introduce Mr. Hart informally." To the tune of loud applause, Mr. Hart took the rostrum.

Criticizes Democrats

He spoke in terms of "we, Republicans," criticizing the Democrats and the national Republican and calling for a "strictly American foreign pol-

The State of the Nation—By Marquis W. Childs

Washington. The self-appointed thought police are on the loose again. Their attack this time is directed against a textbook on economics used in many of the leading universities of the country.



The attack began with the National Economic Council, whose head Merwin K. Hart, has been one of the principal American supporters of Spain's dictator, Franco. It took the form of a so-called review of the book—"The Elements of Economics" by Prof. Lorie Tarshis of Stanford University.

The review twists the meaning of the book to try to show that its author supports the govern-

ment-spending theories of the late Lord Keynes. Therefore, the review concludes, the book must be subversive and un-American.

Wide circulation of this review through the mails was only the first step. In Arkansas, an American Legion post and something called the Arkansas Free Enterprise Assn. have demanded an investigation of the textbook, used in economics classes at the University of Arkansas.

President Lewis W. Jones of the university replied that the sanest procedure would be to submit the book to an impartial group capable of judging it, such as the American Economics Assn. He said he saw nothing subversive in the text.

Here is a pattern of behavior that endangers fundamental American freedoms of speech and thought.

The American Legion recently

held here in Washington a counter-subversive seminar. Seventy-five representatives from Legion posts heard lectures by some so-called experts on Communism.

Both Georgia and Indiana have just had two-day sessions on subversion.

Training Legionnaires to "spot and counter subversive activities," as National Commander O'Neil put it, is a hazardous business. The FBI gives its recruits months of instruction in such matters, and they are told to avoid possible infringement of fundamental rights of speech and thought. Yet here we have amateurs turned loose after two days to do sleuthing on their own.

An example of what this can mean occurred in California recently. Twenty-five men wearing Legion hats bearing the insignia of Glendale, Cal., Post No. 127 invaded the meeting of a Demo-

cratic club and demanded that it break up immediately.

A slight error had been made. The club was duly chartered by the county Democratic central committee. In the midst of indignation and the corresponding embarrassment that followed, State Legion Commander Charles L. Foster condemned the act.

Thought police on the Japanese model are an insult to American integrity. That is especially so when zealous guardians of our thought seek to protect young, if young men and women in college who have grown under the advantages of an American system that has made judgment for themselves. The system has failed. The generation that fought the war does not need to be censored by meddling zealots. They are not more clueless and headed than most of their elders.

Not a member of the Council

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Merwin K Hart

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Merwin Hart, Fascist Backer, Calls On His Followers To Get Guns



Merwin K. Hart

President of National Economic Council, Inc., urges Americans to get "one or more guns" in case "what happened in Spain and France happens here." Without directly explaining against whom arms should be used, Hart, old-time supporter of Franco and former co-worker with Christian Fronters, attacks democrats—with small "d"—as well as Communists, FDR supporters, Zionists, active supporters of World War II, believers in bi-partisan foreign policy and in UN.

Story on Pages 3-4

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Arm Yourselves with Guns, Advises Merwin K. Hart, Backer of Fascists

By VICTOR H. KERNSTEN AND JAMES PARLATONE

In the current weekly newsletter of the National Economic Council, Inc., Merwin K. Hart, Council president, old-time Franco supporter and former co-worker of Christian Fronters, seriously urges his readers to arm themselves with "one or more guns" so that they may not be "defenseless if what happened in Spain and France happens here."

This is not the first time that Hart, confessed hater of American democracy who has been called "fascist-minded" by Harold Ickes, has played around with the notion that guns are nice things for him and his friends to have. But it is the first time that he has gone so far as to urge that every man—and woman—in the street who believes as he does should have a gun in his pocket or over his shoulder.

In his four-page newsletter, which begins with a plea for support of the Republican Party and ends with his call for arms, Hart never says exactly against whom he wants the weapons used. But in the course of his article, the author explicitly or implicitly names as enemies of the Hart way of life all Communists, all Zionists, all supporters of the "bi-partisan" foreign policy, all supporters of the United Nations, all Americans who voluntarily supported this country's role in World War II, all trade unionists who sympathize with the French workers, and all people who believe in American democracy.

So—and as this article develops, the evidence on each of the above points will be documented—Hart

is asking that a minority of Americans arm themselves to assure that, when the time comes, their way of life may prevail against the policies of the U. S. Government and against the wishes of the majority of Americans.

This sounds like "crackpot" stuff, and had it come from the pen of a Gerald Smith, or some small fry convicted seditionist, or any one of the numerous hate-mongers who ply their dirty trade in the back streets of America, PM wouldn't be writing about it in large type at this time.

But Hart's National Economic Council, Inc., is not a fly-by-night organization and Hart isn't plying his trade in a back street. He keeps "respectable" company, and the men who are serving as directors of his Council are either wealthy and influential in their own right or represent some of the biggest and most powerful enterprises in the country.

Dr. L. M. Birkhead of the Friends of Democracy reports that he has copies of the prospectus of the Council, which lists its board of directors, at least two of whom refused to acknowledge any connection with the Council when PM contacted them by telephone last night. Among the directors listed are:

¶ Charles G. Dawes, former Vice President of the U. S. A., listed in 1945 as chairman of the board and director of the City National Bank and Trust Co. (Chicago), director of the National Broadcasting Co., director of the Radio Corp. of America.

¶ John J. Raskob, former chairman of the Demo-



Merwin K. Hart

cratic National Committee, vice president and director of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., director of General Motors Corp., director of Bankers Trust Co., N. Y. C.

¶ D. A. Taylor, vice president and director of S. H. Kress & Co.

¶ Philip Lieberman, vice president of Lieberman Breweries, Brooklyn.

¶ Thomas Creigh, former general counsel of Cudahy Packing Company.

MORE

This Is Hart's Call for Arms

We have one concrete suggestion to make to every citizen who is impressed by the potential danger. Let him possess himself of one or more guns, making sure that they are in good condition, that he and other members of his family know how to use them, and that he has a reasonable supply of ammunition. To buy and possess such guns will, in most States, require a license. In New York State, for instance, such a license is obtainable, outside of Greater New York, from the County Judge; in New York City from the Police Department. In other States the statutes should be consulted as to how one may lawfully obtain and keep a gun.

These licenses apply, certainly in most places, only to guns that may be concealed—that is to pistols of the usual sort. No license is required to own a rifle or shotgun. Every citizen should make certain that he has lawfully in his possession either a pistol or a rifle, and if he has more than one it will do no harm.

It is not without significance that in recent years left-wingers have constantly pressed for passage of laws requiring a license to own a gun, or, in some instances, forbidding private citizens to have guns. The same influences have urged federal legislation requiring federal registration of all firearms privately owned—which of course would enable the Communists to know exactly who possessed weapons.

Much of the reason for the massacring of private citizens and for the looting and other violence that took place in Spain prior to and in the early days of the Civil War, took place because such statutes had been passed and private citizens deprived of the only means they had available to protect themselves.

Let Americans not make the same mistake.

In certain jurisdictions it will be found relatively easy to obtain gun licenses; in others more difficult. Where it seems too difficult suspicion would be warranted as to why. Interested citizens might well counsel together to see what could be done about it.

In this connection it is of interest that advertisements have appeared in newspapers disclosing that some people are interested in purchasing large quantities of second-hand guns. In one case we heard of we caused inquiry to be made, and the source of the demand for these guns could not be found. Possibly they were intended to be sent to Palestine, as was the TNT discovered by accident the other day in a Palestine-bound ship in New York harbor. Possibly it was an organized effort to draw away as many guns as possible from private hands.

But in any event we advise all our readers to proceed lawfully to equip themselves so they and their households may not be defenseless if what happened in Spain and France happens here. It will be better to have guns, and have them ready, and not have to use them, than to have the need for them arise and not have them.

The Lord helps those who help themselves.

Merwin K. Hart

President,

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, Inc

The payoff in Merwin K. Hart's advice to arm... From the "Economic Council Letter" for Jan. 15, 1948.

CONTINUED Hart Lists Hates in Call for Arms

and vice president of the National Economic Council, incorporated.

In addition, the prospectus lists as Council directors Prof. William Starr Myers, of the Political Science Faculty of Princeton University; Alexander W. Armour, retired manufacturer and an executive of the Rockefeller Foundation for 20 years; Dr. George B. Cullen, former president of Colgate University, and others.

Dr. Birkhead, who put the current issue of the Council newsletter at PM's disposal about two days before it normally reaches its subscribers through the mails, is sending a letter to each of the persons listed as directors asking whether he subscribes to Hart's "way of life" and the means Hart proposes for achieving it.

PM succeeded in reaching two of these men by telephone last night. Dawes said:

"I'm not a member of any council. I don't know anything about it."

Prof. Myers said the same thing in other words.

Dr. Birkhead's files show that all the men named above appear as Council directors in the prospectuses of the organization from 1943 through last year.

It is the names of these men, and the wealth and influence at their command, which lend dignity and importance to Hart and his organization. Presumably some of the men provide the money necessary for support of the Council's activities.

PM does not pretend to know whether these directors take active part in the organization's day-by-day activities or consult with Hart on his weekly newsletters. Obviously any who joined him in recent years had a certain sympathy with the Hart notions of what America should be like—an America, primarily, without democracy—else they would not have consented to serve as directors.

But perhaps some of them are not aware of the kind of philosopher they are supporting in Merwin K. Hart, or the wide range of his hatreds, or how far he has lived himself up against the millions and millions of simple Americans who form the backbone of the country.

For instance, let's take a look at the Americans whom Hart is against—and against whom, presumably, he is urging his followers to arm themselves. In his current newsletter, he writes (all the following exhibits are photostats of excerpts from the Economic Council Letter dated yesterday):

For as foreign influence has penetrated America, our Republican government has been weakened and something called "democracy" has tended to take its place. The change has been characterized by swollen spending and swollen debts.

So, presumably, all Americans who are not repelled by the thought of something called "democracy" are enemies of the Hart way of life. Who else is Hart against? We read further:

Add, then, to Hart's list of enemies, the President,

This "non-partisan foreign policy" was conceived in appeasement of Soviet Russia and Collectivism generally. Its character is changing somewhat as a Soviet-produced war becomes ever more imminent; but its nature still survives, as, for instance, in the otherwise unexplained continuance of our policy of hostility toward France Spain. At a time when we are in great danger of finding ourselves at war with Russia—a war in which, incidentally, Great Britain may hold steel—we continue in the British Peninsula to play Russia's game by listening to the Daily Worker, PM, The Nation and the New Republic, all of which in greater or less degree represent the communistic influence in the United States, and we refuse to deal with that country in Europe which never in its history has defaulted on a public debt, whose citizens are perhaps the greatest fighters in all Europe, and whose leader conducted the people through a successful revolt against growing communist control of the Spanish Republic.

the Secretary of State, and at least half—if not a majority—of the Congress, not to speak of the majority of Americans (to hear Republicans and Democratic sponsors of the bipartisan policy speak of it, at least) who also favor the present foreign policy of the Administration.

Without doubt, it will be of interest to President Truman and Secretary Marshall that Hart not only doesn't like their foreign policy, but also implies that if they persist in certain political lines his followers will feel better if they have guns in their pockets.

Stating that the foreign policy of the U. S. A. has been formed by means of radio slogans and "false propaganda on the air, on the screen, in the press and even in the pulpits," Hart goes on to say:

Under this false and misleading influence we were swept into a war that cost 300,000 American lives, used up all or nearly all of some of our most precious natural resources, and added \$240 billion to our national debt. Under this false propaganda, we were led to acquiesce in the vindictive policy of unconditional surrender; in the establishment of a dangerous precedent for all civilians in the prosecution and execution of certain German civilian leaders, and in the policy of reducing Germany to a pastoral level. Under this same false propaganda we were lured into a thing called the United Nations—an organization which has continued to exist as long as it has only because of the almost constant willingness of Americans to concede anything in order to keep it alive.

The implication is perfectly clear. Roosevelt, as war-time leader of his country, was an enemy of Hart's way of life. So were all Roosevelt supporters. So are all Americans who insisted that Germany should surrender "unconditionally," all Americans who believed it right that Hitler's mass murderers and war makers should be punished, all Americans who support the United Nations.

But, by implication, Nazi Germany and its leaders

were obviously not considered sufficiently inimical to Hart's way of life that Hart considered it right for the U. S. A. to have fought World War II. Indeed, asked by a PM reporter in 1941 what he thought of Hitler, Hart answered by ascribing to an unnamed "Jewish friend" the thought that Hitler had returned dignity to the German people—"a dignity which they had lost in the years following the World War."

We proceed to some more of the enemies of Hart's conception of the American way of life:

Now it has been the habit for some years in this country, under systematic intimidation by a small minority of aggressive Zionists, to skirt around any problem in which Jewish influence figured. We believe the time has come for all Americans to speak out, unafraid. The time has come to put minority agitation in the background, and to put the main emphasis on what is good for the whole American people. The rights of minorities should be protected. At the instance of Communism, the country for some years has been rocked with agitation ostensibly to protect Jews and Negroes from discrimination. The great majority of Jews and Negroes have been victims, not beneficiaries, of this agitation.

Include, then, among the enemies of Hart's way of life, Zionists and all minority groups who militantly fight racial and religious discrimination and who militantly seek to support the letter and the spirit of the American bill of rights.

But, of course, Hart's first enemies are the Communists, who will doubtless be glad to know that they are rated very high indeed not only in power and influence, but in military might by the author of the current Council newsletter. For instance:

The danger from American Communists, even if there are only 75,000 of them in the United States, is so great that before the ordinary American citizen wakes up, war with Russia might be well-nigh lost right here on the domestic front.

There are said to be only 15 or 18 thousand Communists in New York City. That would be plenty to take over the entire city, especially Manhattan Island.

It is at this point that Hart issues his call for arms (see bottom of Page 3). It will be noted that it ends with the phrase "The Lord helps those who help themselves." But Hart, apparently not altogether sure of the Lord even under such circumstances, also calls upon the Republican Party:

THE greatest service any political party can render the people of the United States is to formulate and secure the adoption of an American foreign policy. As a practical matter, that party must today be the Republican Party.

Now that we know what Hart thinks of the Republican Party, it will be interesting to find out what the Republican Party thinks of Hart.

The Story of Merwin K. Hart and His Works

THE MAN: Aged 86, born in Ulster, N. Y., educated at swanky St. Paul's School, and graduated from Harvard in 1904. Served in New York State Legislature as Assemblyman from 1907 to 1909. Became a lawyer in 1911. Served overseas as an officer in World War I after having become active in business organizations. Active in employer and business groups in the 1920s. Organized New York State Economic Council in 1931 (now the National Economic Council) to curb public spending and to prevent legislation harmful to those who live by private enterprise. Angular, square-jawed, gray-haired, solidly built, suave, polished, "obviously a gentleman." A Mason, and member of the University, Harvard and other clubs.

THE COMPANY HE HAS KEPT, WORK HE'S DONE: As Chairman of the American Union for National Defense, Hart met with John Eoghan Kelly, Christian Front leader who was convicted as an unregistered agent for Franco. Friend of Jane Anderson, whom he helped introduce to the Franco government and who later turned up as a wartime radio commentator for the Nazis in Germany. In 1938, ran a luncheon for Martin Dies at which Bundists Fritz Kuhn and James Wheeler-Hill were guests. Christian Front members distributed leaflets announcing a meeting of their own. Served on committee for a so-called pro-American rally at the Seventh Regiment Armory, New York, Feb. 19, 1939, tickets for which were available from the Christian Front. Also on the Committee with Hart, Kelly, the Christian Fronters, Rev. Edward Lodge Curran and Patrick Scanlan, at the time spokesmen in Brooklyn for Charles E. Coughlin. On Nov. 20, 1939, presided at meeting in Madison Square

Garden. Main speakers: Dies, and former Queens Borough President George U. Harvey, defender of the Christian Front. Christian Fronters packed row after row of balcony seats on free tickets. References to speakers to Hitler, Mussolini and Franco were applauded. Other friends, associates and supporters: Col. Lodowick Allen Zoll, head of American Patriots, Inc., who with Kelly urged Hart to form American Union for National Defense; Bernard D'Arcy, one of Coughlin's eastern agents; Robert Harris, New York cotton dealer and Coughlin's financial adviser; James True, notorious anti-Semite of Washington and inventor of a black-jack like gadget named by True a "kike-killer." Rev. F. X. Talbot, editor of America and defender of Coughlin and the Proletarian; Verne Marshall who headed pre-war No Foreign War movement. Visited Spain during Civil War there, and upon his return urged

closer relationship with Franco Government. Active in America First movement, opposed Lend Lease aid bill in 1941. Article appeared under his name in Coughlin's Social Justice in 1938. Long-time opponent of expenditures for education and luxury for so-called subversive textbooks. FITTY QUOTES FROM HART: "It is time to brush aside the word 'democracy' with all its connotations." "I wonder sometimes if one of the causes of our troubles today does not arise from the fact that we have been overdrilled into believing we are a democracy. This, too, may be one of the latest 'industrial' wiles of foreign influence." (Above quotes from an address to the Union League Club, Sept. 19, 1940.) "I stated he believed democracy is synonymous with Communism." FITTY QUOTES ABOUT HART: By former Secretary of the

Interior Harold Ickes: "...a fascist-minded, native American who misuses few occasions to sneer at democracy."—Speech at Columbia University, Dec. 17, 1940. By Ickes, again: "There is a widely disseminated and ably conducted movement in this country that draws together such men as Merwin K. Hart, Father Coughlin, Col. Lindbergh, Lawrence Dennis and Maj. Al Williams. . . . These men are supported by others who play upon the prejudices of the anti-Semite, the anti-Negro and the anti-sharecropper."—Speech before Protestant Digest Associates dinner, New York, Feb. 25, 1941. By Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, then U. S. Attorney General: "A modern protestor against democracy" along with Maj. George Van Horn Moseley, (U. S. Army retired); H. W. Frensis, president of the National Assn. of Manufacturers, and others.—Speech to Mass. Law Society, Oct. 16, 1940.

Hart's 'Get Gun' Call Costs Him A Backer

By Victor R. Bernstein and Gene De Pons

Within 12 hours of PM's expose Friday of Merwin K. Hart's call to his followers to "get guns," his National Economic Council, Inc., was minus one director by resignation.

Philip Liebmann, vice president of Liebmann Breweries of Brooklyn, told PM late Friday he had just informed Hart of his resignation by telephone and was mailing a letter in confirmation.

Hart, old-time supporter of Franco and confessed opponent of "democracy," urged all Americans to arm themselves "with one or more guns" in the current issue of the *Economic Council Letter*, official mouthpiece of his organization.

Liebmann told PM he consented to join the Council "some years ago" under the impression that it was an organization aimed to make sure that "our test books are pro-American." He added that he hasn't been active in it for the last "five or six years" and has not seen Hart in that time.

"But Mr. Hart's suggestion that citizens arm themselves is against my conception of American democracy," Liebmann said. "There is nothing left for me to do but to resign."

Asked whether he wasn't aware that Hart had many times been charged with being "fascist-minded," Liebmann said he "rarely read" Hart's bi-weekly letter and added:

"George Sokolsky [ultra right-wing Sun columnist] told me that Hart was okay and that his outfit was a good thing."

Liebmann, plainly upset by the whole development, explained that he gave the Council \$300 upon joining and "perhaps \$100 more over the years since." About five or six years ago, he added, he was elected a director. Since then, he explained, his only connection was "to fill in a coupon each year and send some money back with it."

PM telephoned Sokolsky to ask whether, in his mind, Hart and the National Economic Council were still "okay," but the Sun columnist refused to be drawn out.

"Anything I have to say on that," the writer said, "I'll say in my column. I never give interviews. I only write a column."

For the record, PM wants to clarify the position of two men who were listed in this newspaper on Friday as Council directors. Files of the *Friends of Democracy* show that:

¶ John J. Raskob, vice president of E. I. du Pont, was a director in 1943. In 1948, he was listed as a sponsor on the official program of a dinner given by the National Economic Council to Upton Close, ultra right-wing broadcaster.

¶ Alexander W. Armour, for 20 years an executive of the Rockefeller Foundation, was listed as a director in 1943.

Hart was "not at home" to PM reporters yesterday, although at one stage in the attempt to reach him, his switchboard operator declared that "Mr. Hart is busy with an important long-distance call."

January 16, 1948

Mr. Merwin K. Hart
National Economic Council, Inc.
350 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hart:

I have read with considerable distress your Economic Council newsletter No. 187, which was brought to my attention by a newspaper article which appeared today.

Regardless of what the reasoning behind such an outbreak may have been, I do not believe that in this law-abiding country it is either wise or dangerous and inviting to violence to tell private citizens to arm themselves for violence (even in self-protection). We have in this country a loyal army and police forces to see that the decisions of the electorate under our Constitution is upheld and to protect other citizens from violence or disobedience by their fellow citizens, despite what their views may be.

Although I have been for many years a Director of your organization, I cannot allow my name to be used in connection with anything such as this, in spite of how it is meant because it is contrary to everything in which I believe.

I have not seen you in some years nor has it been possible for me to attend meetings of your organization for many years, or discuss any problems with your associates. Therefore, of course, I could not expect to have been consulted about such matters. You, therefore, do not lose a member who has been of any actual value to your organization and I am sure you would not want me to be connected with the organization feeling as I do about what I consider an ill-advised suggestion.

I have rummaged through my files and found an old prospectus stating the aims of your organization, one of which is: "To guard the American way of life, by opposing Communism, Nazism, Fascism and all other alien ideologies." I certainly consider the suggestion of citizens arming themselves in their homes conflicting directly with such principles, which principles I hold very dear. Therefore, I must ask you to accept my resignation.

Very truly yours,

Philip Liebmann

This is a reproduction of the letter written by Philip Liebmann, vice-president of Liebmann Breweries of Brooklyn, announcing his resignation as a director of Merwin K. Hart's National Economic Council, Inc.

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JAN 17 1948

Re: Merwin K. Hart

Hon. John McDowell
Chairman, House Un-American Activities
Subcommittee, Washington, D. C.
My dear Congressman McDowell:

I note that your "off-again on-again" investigations into fascist activities in the U. S. A. are, at the moment, on again. I therefore beg to call your Subcommittee's attention to one Merwin K. Hart, backer of fascists, confessed opponent of democracy and founder and president of the National Economic Council, Inc., Empire State Building, this city.

Merely as an introduction to the activities of this gentleman, I enclose herewith copies of his Economic Council Letters dated Dec. 15, 1947, and Jan. 15, 1948, together with clippings from PM dealing with the letter of more recent date, in which Hart urges Americans to acquire at least two guns each in order to see that the Hart way of life prevails in America.

It would be an insult to Hart's intelligence were I to insinuate in any way, on the facts available, that he has broken any law. On the contrary, Hart's mind seems to be obsessed with legalisms, as when he carefully points out in his letter of Jan. 15 that it is legal for any American to carry a pistol in his pocket provided he has the proper license, and that it is also legal for any American to have a rifle in his home without a special license at all.

Hart is equally careful in his approach to the Zionist question, which is the subject of his letter of Dec. 15, last year. After specifically limiting his attack to what he insists is a "minority" of American Jews who are Zionists, he goes on to say that it is "absurd" to speak of anti-Semitism in the United States. "The real offense," he writes, "is anti-Gentilism" (italics his). And he adds:

"This aggressive Jewish group can wreck the United States. But if their attitude continues they will wreck themselves before the United States is wrecked. There will surely be a repetition here of all the outbursts and violence against Jews that have taken place in so many other countries.

May that evil day never come! For the wrath of the American people would likely explode against all Jews, even the great majority who are Americans before they are Jews."

You will doubtless note, Mr. McDowell, that Hart does not actually ask for pogroms; indeed, he recoils righteously from the very thought. But I think you will agree that if there are anti-Semites in the U. S. who have been looking for a lively way to express their feelings, they could find Hart's words extremely suggestive. I am reminded that Hitler, who was also a great fellow for legalisms, always insisted that pogroms in Germany were the result of the "spontaneous explosions" of the wrath of the German people against the Jews.

However, the fact that Hart seems to adhere closely to the legalities should not deter your Committee from taking action against him. I haven't noticed that the absence of crime, or even the imputation of crime, has ever deterred your Committee from taking action in sundry other directions. Indeed, the history of your Committee would seem to indicate that it shares, somewhat, the view of Dickens' Mr. Bumble, who remarked that "the law is a ass." I say "somewhat" because the record hints that your Committeemen consider the law rather as half-an-ass, needing help only in moving against the Left.

But all this is nonsense, of course, for the law isn't an ass. Where it is dumb and blind, it is so deliberately, and with a high degree of selectivity. I shudder, for instance, to think of the outcry, from the law and from your Committee, had it been *The Daily Worker* and not the *Economic Council Letter* which had urged two guns in every home as a means of guaranteeing two chickens in every pot.

Here is your chance, Mr. McDowell, to prove that your Committee is really interested in Un-American Activities, and not merely in the prejudices of J. Parnell Thomas and his undistinguished line of predecessors.

-VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN

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JAN 9 1948

JAN 19 1948



THESE DAYS

By George E. Sokolsky

Much Ado About Hart.

It goes to show what's wrong with the liberal mind. The Brooklyn Women's Republican Club had invited Merwin K. Hart, president of the National Economic Council, to deliver an address. Hart is called a Fascist by Communists and others because he is favorably disposed to Franco and because he supports capitalism for the United States as does the Republican party. And because he is called a Fascist, by association he is made out to be an anti-Semite. Also he is anti-Zionist.

So whenever Hart wants to make a speech, or whenever he advocates some idea, sound or stupid, wise or foolish—and it is an American right to advocate ideas—the Communists, progressives, liberals and their innocent dupes shiver and shake in rage. They resort to intimidation. They threaten the sponsors of such meetings. They threaten boycotts and all sorts of evil happenings.

Had Been in Legislature.

Therefore, John R. Crews, the Republican leader of Brooklyn, ordered the good ladies of the aforesaid club not to permit Hart to speak. Now Hart happens to be a Republican, had been a member of the State Legislature. I know him, we having been born in the same town, Utica, N. Y. Hart is not a Fascist nor is he an anti-Semite. He only prefers Franco to Stalin. I do not prefer either nor do I believe that it is any of my business who governs any foreign country. If the Spaniards stand for Franco and the Russians like Stalin, that is their affair. I prefer either Taft or Dewey for President and do not want either Eisenhower or MacArthur. That is as far as I am willing to go.

Crews makes the point: "I have stopped Communist speakers in the past and I will continue to oppose Fascist, Communist and other subversive speakers in the future."

This is not altogether true. But Crews means well. He has, on several occasions, formed political alliances with the American Labor party, which is probably a Communist political arm. I suppose his

defense is that he wants to elect his candidates in a fuzzy district. Crews also said:

"I don't know much about him [Hart] but from what I've heard, he is of the extreme right and we are highly unsympathetic toward him."

Anyhow, that is Crews's story. It appears also that a Judge Benjamin became furious that Hart was to speak to his ladies, so he jumped all over the sweet lady who runs this show. She and I discussed it and I told her that in my opinion she would be smart to have Hart and Benjamin speak at the same time. According to her, the Judge would not speak unless he was the only speaker, which is a judicial prerogative, some judges speaking only to themselves.

Remained in Seats.

So Hart was told on the morning of the meeting not to come. He came. The meeting was adjourned. The ladies remained in their seats. Hart was informally introduced and he made a speech, criticizing the Democrats and Palestine partition. The whole business amounted to nothing except as an example of prevention of free speech by intimidation. Hart issues a newsletter and in the most recent one he suggested that the people arm against revolution. Personally, I prefer the FBI, the police, the Army and the Navy. Private citizens with guns sometimes let them go off at the wrong time.

The suggestion struck me as hysterical, but I still think that the hysterical fellow has a right to state his hysteria if he stays within the law.

However, the great liberals felt differently. To them, Hart was organizing a citizen's army to murder them. I fear that they must have been up to something dreadful if they are so afraid of Hart. Honest and healthy people do not scare so easily.

The upshot of it all is that one member resigned from Hart's board and Brooklyn has some excitement in an off season. It is no more possible to kill off Hart than it is to kill off Marcantonio by this type of intimidation. The glory of this country is that anybody can hurl ideas at the American people—good ones and foul ones. As, for instance, Henry Wallace. Nobody minds.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/00 BY 60267 NLS/KIC/PL

JAN 21 1948

Another Backer Less for Merwin Hart

PM is very happy to print Alexander W. Armour's indignant denial that he is connected, in any way, shape or form, with fascist backer Merwin K. Hart of Hart's National Economic Council, Inc.

This is the second public repudiation of the Council by one of its former backers since this newspaper exposed Hart's call to Americans to "get guns" to defend the fascist-backer's notion of the American way of life.

Twelve hours after PM ran its expose, Philip Liebmann, vice-president of the Liebmann Breweries of Brooklyn, resigned his post as Council director.

Now Armour, whom this newspaper also listed as a director, explains that he resigned his directorship — and his membership — in January, 1944, and was "altogether unaware" of the article by Hart, published in the Economic Council Letter of Jan. 15, urging readers to arm themselves with "one or more guns."

PM got Armour's name as a director from a Council prospectus which, although officially undated, appears to have been published and distributed late in 1943 or early in 1944.

Armour also denies, as PM as-

serted, that he was an executive of the Rockefeller Foundation for 20 years. PM got its information from the same Council-distributed prospectus.

PM's columns are wide open to all former backers of the National Economic Council who have had a change of heart about Hart.

Armour's Denial

THE NASSAU CLUB
PRINCETON, N. J.
January 20th, 1948

PM,
164 Duane Street,
New York 13, N. Y.
Attention of Mr. Frank Bear,
City Editor.

Sirs:

Violent communications from unknown persons have reached me in the last day or two, which indicate that PM has made an erroneous reference to me in connection with the National Economic Council. Confirming my conversation with City Editor Bear a few moments ago, over the Club telephone, may I say this:

(1) I am in no way connected with the National Economic Council, do not receive the

altogether unaware of the Council's literature, and am statement of the Council about which you have written.

(2) In the Summer of 1943, at the behest of some friends here, I became a member of the Council, was made a member of a committee and also was appointed Honorary Treasurer. In January, 1944—four years ago, I resigned entirely, and my resignation was accepted. Furthermore, Mr. Hart wrote me agreeing to remove my name from the mailing list. This was done.

You have done me a great injury in publishing my name, as you have, in connection with this Economic Council. Also, in your reference to The Rockefeller Foundation, with which I have no contact—and have not had for 20 years, when I was, for about a year, a temporary employee thereof.

I have been living here, in retirement, for some years — since 1941. Will you not publish this letter and so, in some measure, overcome the injustice you have done me by your inaccurate statement?

Signed: ALEXANDER W. ARMOUR

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/00 BY 60377 NLS/cic/p



JAN 2 1948

Rifle Assn. Denies Backing Hart

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

C. B. Lister, Secretary of the National Rifle Assn., repudiated yesterday a Chicago Tribune press service story, carried under a New York date line, trying to create the impression he and the Association supported Merwin K. Hart's recent "call to arms" against alleged revolutionary Communist "threats."

Hart's invitation to citizens to "arm themselves" to check "what happened in Spain and France," published in the news letter of Hart's National Economic Council, was exposed by PM Jan. 16. PM attacked the implications in Hart's letter, but did not question the existing rights of U. S. citizens to own arms when they comply with the

law. The Tribune press service quoted Lister and Karl T. Frederick, former Rifle Assn. president as saying that Communists were "surreptitiously" supporting legislation to "increase difficulties in the way of ownership of guns by American citizens." The story added that these comments came "in connection with a flareup" between Hart and PM.

Actually, Lister told PM, Hart's "call to arms" was not mentioned in his long distance telephone conversation with the Tribune Press Service last Friday. Neither was PM, he said.

Lister had not even seen Hart's "call to arms," he said. When a PM reporter read sections of Hart's

"call" over the telephone, Lister said his organization had no intention, in the original statement, of defending or protecting Hart and his theories.

While he and the Rifle Assn. think Communists desire to "disarm the bourgeoisie" they don't believe there is any imminent danger of a Communist or fascist uprising in this country, Lister said. He added the Association has taken a "definite stand" against "pseudo-patriotic organizations."

The Rifle Assn. is generally interested, he said, in promoting use of small arms by civilians in organized and properly safeguarded groups. It opposes proposals for central registration of firearms owned by citizens.

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DATE 2/1/00 BY 60367NLS/KC/PL

JAN 27 1948

15-21056-51

Get-a-Gun Hart Grilled At Harvard

Special Correspondence

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.
Merwin K. Hart (Harvard '04) returned to the scenes of his youth last week after 44 years, as guest of the Free Enterprise Society of Harvard. Instead of a small, sympathetic audience, Get-a-Gun Hart, founder-president of the National Economic Council, Inc., found the hall packed with undergraduates, most of them members of the Harvard Liberal Union who came armed with questions for the fray.

They listened patiently to Hart's discourse on the dangers to free enterprise in the Marshall Plan, then unleashed a barrage of questions which kept the old-time sup-

porter of Franco talking for 35 minutes.

Hart denied any past connections with men like Charles E. Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith, and refused to name the Jews he said controlled the Truman Administration.

In a typical exchange, Hart was called on to prove his statement that FEPC was Communist-inspired. He replied that he had seen a Communist Party pamphlet calling on Southern Negroes to revolt and take over the South.

The meeting ended promptly at 9 p.m., and as Hart bowed away, a spokesman for the Liberal Union took over, calling on the Free Enterprise Society to apologize to the student body for binging Hart back to the campus.

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DATE 2/1/00 BY 60267NLS/EC/PL

100-21056-82

FEB 8 1948	
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MAILED TO	FILE

Hart, Franco Backer, Tells House Spain Mu

WASHINGTON

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, conducting hearings on the European Recovery Plan, heard as a witness yesterday Merwin K. Hart, president of the National Economic Council, New York.

Hart, American apologist for Franco Spain, urged that Spain be included among the aided nations, commenting:

"The time has come for our Government, and especially our State Dept., to throw out the window the Communist-inspired hostility to the present government of Spain."

He also argued that U. S. aid should be denied Britain unless the British stop "further nationalization of industries," and said that the first condition the U. S. should attach is that every government receiving aid should give up further efforts to take over industries.

Rep. John D. Lodge (R., Conn.) took issue with this proposal. "What you are asking European countries to do is to get well before we give them the medicine," Lodge said.

But Rep. Donald L. Jackson (R., Cal.) agreed with Hart.

"I am one who feels we have every right to place reasonable restrictions on any aid we extend," Jackson said. "And I am in full agreement with you on the Spanish question. I think it's absolute folly to recognize a country such as Bulgaria and not

a potential ally."

Hart, former co-worker of Christian Fronters, last month

seriously urged readers of his newsletter to arm themselves with "one or more guns" so that

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FEB 18 1948	
N.Y.C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

FEB 18 1948

100-1085683



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. _____

March 9, 1948

MEMO:

RE: MERWIN K. HART

The writer, after making a Bureau speech before the Men's Club of the St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, 11th Avenue and 80th Street, Brooklyn, talked with

b7c [redacted] referred to an article published in "The Witness", a publication of the Episcopal Church (a copy attached).

The reference article, appearing on page 12 is written by Rev. W. B. Spofford concerning the activities of the above subject. One passage was read by [redacted] quoting a news letter published by Hart. This passage stated:

"We have one concrete suggestion to make to every citizen who is impressed by the potential danger. Let him possess himself of one or more guns, making sure that they are in good condition, that he and other members of his family know how to use them, and that he has a reasonable supply of ammunition ... We advise all our readers to proceed lawfully to equip themselves so they and their households may not be defenseless if what happened in Spain and France happens here. It will be better to have guns, and have them ready, and not have to use them, than to have the need for them arise and not have them. The Lord helps those who help themselves."

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/1/00 BY 60262 NUS/UC/pk

SA [redacted]

b7c

100-21056-84

See exhibit
1A 27

[Handwritten signature/initials]
apr.

Hart Letter Mailed With Anti-Zion Data

By ALVIN ROSENFELD
Circles of the official publication of Merwin K. Hart, a peace supporter and arch reactionary, are being mailed out with anti-Palestine partition material signed by Dr. Virginia S. Gildersleeve, dean emerita of Barnard College and chairman of the newly formed "Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land." It was learned today.

Several prominent churchmen have received the material in one envelope, and it is understood that scores of other copies have been mailed.

The material as received contained a letter from Dr. Gildersleeve, a copy of the recent statement made by her and six others calling for reconsideration of the Palestine partition plan and a copy of the Oct. 13, 1947, issue

ment and expressed belief that possibly one or more of these people might be lumping the material together.

She said also that her covering letter referred to "the enclosed statement" and used the singular.

Dr. Gildersleeve added, however, that she did not see the "importance" of the fact that the Hart publication was being circulated with her own.

It was learned at the same time that Dr. Gildersleeve's office is Room 200 at 342 Madison Ave. was also the office of Col. Harold Hoskins, former State Dept. official who wrote a confidential anti-Zionist memorandum circulated among Congressmen several years ago. Rep. Celler (D-N.Y.) has called Hoskins "an avowed friend of the Arabs."

Hart, president of the National Economic Council, has opposed widespread immigration of displaced persons to this country and a recent issue of his Letter urged readers to arm themselves

with "one or more guns" so that they "may not be defenseless if what happened in Spain and France happens here."

In printing Freedman's statement, Hart said it should be "carefully weighed."

The Freedman statement said, among other things, that American "Zionists have been able to bring about the economic ruin of many Christians and Jews who have dared challenge their right to claim Palestine for a national Jewish state."

Freedman is an official of the

League for Peace With Justice in Palestine. In the Congressional Record recently, Sen. McMahon (D-Conn.) accused him of having worked "in close collaboration" with officials of the Institute of Arab-American Affairs, Inc., "an Arab propaganda agency," and the Arab Office in Washington.

Among those who received the Hart publication along with the other material were Dr. Carl Hermon Voss, Dr. A. William Loos and John R. Inman, all officials of the Church Peace Union.

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6-85
F.B.I.
MAR 12 1948
N.Y.C.
ROUTED TO
81

Post to the Home News
MAR 10 1948

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: March 29, 1948

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
(Your file 100-21056)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

MR. SCHEIDT
MR. BELMONT
MR. WHELAN
MR. BRISTOLL
MR. GRANVILLE
MR. HARGETT
MR. KUHRTZ
MR. MARCHESSAULT
MR. MOYNIHAN
MR. NICOLIT SUPERVISOR
MR. ROSEN
MR. TOLSON
MR. TUDY
MR. WATSON
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

2/11/00
CLASSIFIED BY 60267NLS/EC/PL (Derivative)
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1
#39743

The only information in the Bureau files believed to be identical with
is contained in letters from the Washington Field Office dated February
12, and April 6, 1944, captioned [REDACTED] Espionage Activities,

MAR 31 1948

N.Y.C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Espionage - S," copies of which were designated for the New York Office.

b1

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

cc-Washington.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

FILE NO. **100-32460**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/5/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/2,3/48	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] SA IAS b7C
TITLE BERNIE KIRBALL HART, was <i>ack</i>			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

448
21M/00
CLASSIFIED BY 60271 wjg/efj
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1/14/93

[REDACTED] **b1**

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated March 29, 1948.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C. **b2** **b7C** **b7D**

Confidential Informant has advised that under date of February 23, 1948, one **[REDACTED]** Madrid, Spain, wrote to Spanish Embassy, Washington, D. C., advising that **[REDACTED]** Professor from the University of Seville had left for the United States to go on a lecture tour.

[REDACTED] **b1**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - New York 2 - Washington Field		100-32460-37 F. B. I. APR 8 1948 N. Y. C. [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12460

(c)

(c)

b1

(c)

b7c

In regard to the [redacted]
by discreet inquiry that [redacted]
at the Medical Center. [redacted]
the [redacted]

it has been ascertained
occupied a room in Ward 9-1

(c)

b7c

[redacted] Roosevelt Hotel, Wash-
ington, D. C., has advised that [redacted] University of Seville,
Seville, Spain, registered in Room B22 at the Roosevelt Hotel at 9:50 p.m.
on March 18, 1948 and remained there until March 20, 1948. He again returned
on March 24, 1948 at 10:00 p.m. and remained until March 25, occupying

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12460

b2
b7c
b7D
Room 522. He left no forwarding address on either occasion. [REDACTED] also advised that one [REDACTED] was registered on March 18 at the same time as [REDACTED] in Room 821, at which time his name was erroneously carried as [REDACTED]. He remained there until March 20 and returned on March 24 at the same time as [REDACTED] and registered in Room 424 under the name [REDACTED] and remained until March 25, giving his address on both occasions as [REDACTED] Madrid, Spain. He also left no forwarding address on either occasion.

Relative to the National Economic Council, Confidential Informant [REDACTED] learned on June 13, 1946 that this organization in New York City sent to Ambassador CARDENAS of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, one copy of "The Economic Council Letter," of June 15, 1946, which contained one article entitled, "Recipe for Discord and War." This was the criticism of the leftist movement which it held responsible for attempting to draw the USA into a war against Spain. The article states that the extent, strength, and power of the Communist movement in the USA has been revealed.

Relative to MERWIN HART, [REDACTED]

b1
[REDACTED] (C)
Confidential Informant [REDACTED] learned on July 7, 1947 that HART wrote a letter to [REDACTED] expressing thanks for letters written to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Spain and to the Spanish Ambassador in Lisbon, to advise them of his forthcoming trip to those places. He expressed the desire to meet [REDACTED] Spanish Ambassador to Lisbon, [REDACTED] President of Portugal, and [REDACTED]. He stated that in Madrid he intended to interview Generalissimo FRANCO and planned to write articles for the Herat Press. He stated that he would call upon [REDACTED] in Washington.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12460

LEADS

THE NEW YORK CITY FIELD OFFICE

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will ascertain if [REDACTED] is presently registered at the Waldorf Hotel and will attempt to ascertain through informant and other sources whether [REDACTED] arrived in New York at the invitation of the National Economic Council. Will also ascertain the nature of his activities, speeches, etc. b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FD-36

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

New York, New York

April 10, 1948

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU, WASHINGTON FIELD, PHILADELPHIA

URGENT

b1

MERWIN KIMBALL HART WAS. INTERNAL SECURITY - X.

INS RECORDS REFLECT

BORN [REDACTED] AT SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN VISITED US DEPARTING NINE FIVE FORTY FOUR. [REDACTED] CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE, NYC ADVISED

[REDACTED] RECEIVED AN ENDOWMENT AND VISITED NUMEROUS UNIVERSITIES NINETEEN FORTY FOUR. SHE ASCERTAINED THAT [REDACTED] WAS IN US FOR OVER TWO MONTHS IN NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT LEAVING BY PLANE FOUR TWO LAST DUE TO THE DEATH OF A RELATIVE. / HER

FILES INDICATED [REDACTED]

WASHINGTON, D.C. HAD SOME CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL / RELATIVE TO [REDACTED] WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] FOR INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFERENCE LETTER. PHILADELPHIA REQUESTED TO EXAMINE INS RECORDS FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION IN THEIR FILES ON [REDACTED] SUBMIT REPORT BY FOUR FIFTEEN NEXT. NY ORIGIN.

2/11/80

CLASSIFIED BY 60267 NLS/DEC/92
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X


439743

SCHEIDT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HERE IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

LWS:HMJ
100-21056

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

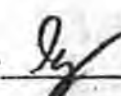
Approved: 

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

406 PM

Per



100-21056-88

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

1 Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 100-NY-21056-88

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-NY-21056-88

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

PH

100-5876

WS

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 4/11/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/11/48	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] SAC
TITLE MERRIN KIMBALL HART, was		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>b7c</p> <p>A.R. File #7754632 reflects [REDACTED] entered U.S. as visitor on 2/28/44 via Plane #00606 at NYC. He was destined to [REDACTED] and intended to lecture at several universities. This visit made under auspices of [REDACTED]. He petitioned State Department 7/21/44 for permission to leave U.S. and return to his post as Professor of Political Science and Public Law at University of Seville in Spain. Departed U.S. 9/5/44 via Plane #00612 from NYC. No record located of [REDACTED] entry and departure in 1948.</p> <p>- NYC -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Teletype from New York dated 4/10/48.</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/4/00 BY 60262NLS/ucp</p> <p>DETAILS: The following investigation was conducted by Special Employee [REDACTED]</p> <p>b7c</p> <p>100-21056-89</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>5 Bureau of this Report</p> <p>2 New York</p> <p>1 Washington Field (Info.)</p> <p>2 Philadelphia</p>		<p>F. B. I.</p> <p>APR 15 1948</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	

PH File #100-3276

[redacted] Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advised that no record was located under the exact name set forth in reference teletype - [redacted]

[redacted] However, she furnished a [redacted] also known as [redacted] INURE - believed to be identical with this individual. [redacted] reflected that he was born on [redacted] was a citizen of Spain; and attended Oxford University from 1935 to 1936. From 1936 to 1944, he was Professor of Political Science and Public Law at the University of Seville at Seville, Spain. On February 28, 1944, he entered the United States at La Guardia Field, New York City, via Plane NGL8606, as a visitor. His purpose in coming to the United States was to lecture at several universities and he was destined at the time of entry to [redacted] His visit was scheduled on the invitation and under the auspices of the [redacted]

On July 21, 1944, [redacted] filed a petition with the State Department, Washington, D. C., asking permission to leave the United States and to return to his post as Professor at the University of Seville in Spain. At this time [redacted] his address as - care of [redacted] and listed as personal references - [redacted] of Columbia University, and Mrs. [redacted] State Department, Washington, D. C.

On September 15, 1944, the District Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at New York City advised the Central Office that [redacted] had departed from this country on September 5, 1944, via Plane NGL8612, leaving from New York City.

[redacted] advised that a further search of the indices failed to reflect a record of [redacted] entry and departure in 1948. She pointed out, however, that records of visitors' entries in

PR File #100-3676

1948 have not yet been classified and indexed, and that such records are now in transit to Washington, D. C., where the Central Office will be located in the immediate future. These records will be available for review at the Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D. C., on April 19, 1948, or shortly thereafter.

The entry record can be located at present, however, at the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service covering the port where entry was made if that port is known.

No action should be taken in this matter by the Washington Field Office pending receipt of instructions from the office of origin.

[REDACTED] is described as follows:

b7c

Age	[REDACTED]
Sex	[REDACTED]
Race	[REDACTED]
Hair	[REDACTED]
Eyes	[REDACTED]
Height	[REDACTED]
Weight	[REDACTED]
Marital Status	[REDACTED]
Occupation	[REDACTED]
Citizenship	[REDACTED]

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

-3-

ON FILE 100-204

LEAD

THE WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

A copy of this report is being
furnished to the Washington Field Office
for information only.

+

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4-11-48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4-12-48	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
--	----------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

TITLE MERRIN KIMBALL HART, was	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X
--	---

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] first met [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] was brought over by [REDACTED] to make lecture tour in United States. [REDACTED] a week or two ago when [REDACTED] said he came over to act as interpreter for a Spanish banker. [REDACTED] made inquiries of [REDACTED] as to possibilities of another lecture tour which [REDACTED] says [REDACTED] will not sponsor because of discontinuance of such program by [REDACTED] considers [REDACTED] a high class man of integrity, interested only in promoting closer cultural relations between Spanish and American Universities.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: New York teletype dated April 10, 1948.

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

On April 12, 1948,

[REDACTED] Washington, D. C., stated that he first met [REDACTED] in 1944 when [REDACTED] sponsored [REDACTED] on a lecture tour concerning which arrangements were made by [REDACTED] and U. S. Ambassador to Spain, [REDACTED]. Carnegie paid the sum of \$500 as expenses to [REDACTED] on this trip. He recalled that [REDACTED] at that time lived at Catholic University in Washington where he delivered several lectures and he also delivered lectures at Lafayette College, Eastern Pennsylvania; Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts; Brown

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center;">F. B. I. APR 15 1948 N. Y. C. [REDACTED]</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3-Bureau (Encl.) 2-New York 2-Washington Field	

University, Providence, Rhode Island; the University of Michigan and possibly other universities.

██████████ advised that ██████████ lectures at that time included the following subjects: "Growth and Development of the Idea of Liberty During the Colonial Era"; "Foundation of Civil Society"; "The German Theory of Vital Spaces and the Monroe Doctrine"; "The Conception of a Just War"; "The Movement of Culture"; and "The Mission of Spain and the Future Equilibrium of the World".

██████████ said that ██████████ proved to be a very popular and successful lecturer. He spoke good English and possessed a very charming and delightful personality. He quoted from a letter written by ██████████ of the University of Michigan, who praised ██████████ very highly in connection with a lecture which ██████████ had delivered at that University entitled "The Crisis of European Liberalism".

b7c ██████████ said that a week or two ago ██████████ again called on him, stating that he was in this country as an interpreter for a Spanish banker, whose name ██████████ was unable to recall. ██████████ said that he was going back to Spain as soon as this particular banking business had been terminated and he also made some reference to sickness in his family in Spain. ██████████ said that ██████████ came to see him because he wanted to know about the possibility of ██████████ sponsoring him on another lecture tour to the United States. He also disclosed to ██████████ that he intends to marry an English woman and wants to come to the United States on his honeymoon. ██████████ said that inasmuch as ██████████ has discontinued the sponsoring of foreign lecturers, he told Professor ██████████ that ██████████ would be unable to do this, but he did offer to write letters to several universities, including one to ██████████ at the University of Michigan, concerning ██████████ proposition. ██████████ said that if ██████████ had not changed its policy ██████████ would be one of the first they would want to consider. ██████████ said that he considers ██████████ to be an honorable man of excellent character, integrity, and as one who has no political axe to grind. He said that he has gathered the definite impression that ██████████ is interested primarily in his profession as a teacher and that he is sincerely interested in trying to promote closer cultural relations between Spanish and American universities. He is also trying to establish a cultural exchange of students between Spain and the United States.

██████████ had in his possession a slip of paper which had been prepared by ██████████ in his own handwriting giving a brief background of

himself. This was written on stationery of the University Club, 1 West 50th Street, New York City, where [redacted] said he stayed while in New York City. This reflected that [redacted] of the Department of Political Science and Public Law at the University of Spain, that he is a Professor in the School of Hispanic-American Studies, Seville, Spain, and the University of Bahiada (summer university), and he is also a member of the Council of Scientific Research. He was born [redacted] Spain and has received degrees from the University of Valladolid, Spain, the University of Paris, University of Madrid and Oxford University. It reflected that he has lectured in Spain, France, England, Ireland, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and the United States. In addition to the colleges previously mentioned by [redacted] this paper reflected that he had also lectured at the University of Denver, University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, Los Angeles University and Dayton University.

This paper reflected that he is the author of [redacted]

[redacted] It also indicates that he is a member of the Aristobelian Society, the Newman Society and the Sociedad Urcnjado de Amigos del Pais.

[redacted] said that he possessed no knowledge concerning any correspondence that he had had with the International Economic Council concerning [redacted] and that he believed that any correspondence which [redacted] had with that Council would probably have been carried on by the New York Office of the [redacted]

[redacted] has also furnished this office with a copy of a statement prepared by [redacted] concerning his plan for developing closer cultural ties between the United States and Spain. This is being transmitted to the Bureau.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. 100-21056 VMT

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 4/22/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/6, 20/48	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE MURKIN KIMBALL HART, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records of the [REDACTED] reveal [REDACTED] visited U. S. for about two months, leaving NYC 4/2/48, destined to Spain due to the death of a relative. [REDACTED] is known to have been in contact with the National Economic Council and this Council wrote letters to a number of U. S. Universities prior to his arrival in the U. S. Records at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel failed to reflect any information regarding [REDACTED] but it was noted that Room 835 in this hotel had been occupied by [REDACTED] of the Spanish Embassy, Washington, D. C. from 3/18/48 to 4/1/48.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/10/00 BY [REDACTED]

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 100-128996
Bureau letter 2/20/48
Reports of SA [REDACTED] Washington, D. C. 4/5/48
and 4/14/48
Report of SAC L. V. BOARDMAN at Philadelphia, 4/14/48

DETAILS:

The files of the New York office reflected that a confidential source reported on February 10, 1944 [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] the identity and political sympathies of [REDACTED] relative to time, [REDACTED] identified [REDACTED] as a professor at the University of Seville, and advised that he was a supporter of the Franco government; had come from one of the best families in San Sebastian; and that [REDACTED] father was [REDACTED] and was connected with [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [REDACTED]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		100-21056-91
Bureau		[REDACTED]
New York		[REDACTED]

He further advised that [redacted] of Columbia University had received a letter from [redacted] who indicated that he was enroute to the United States for the purpose of giving lectures, which would consist of discussions on law and political science.

These files further reflected that through a confidential source on February 29, 1944, the Madrid Foreign Office instructed the Spanish Embassy to inform [redacted] that it would be necessary to submit the text of all his speeches to the Spanish Embassy for final censorship prior to their deliverance. It was also reported that \$1,000.00 was being held in [redacted] name at the Spanish Consulate, which money had been sent to the United States through official Spanish banking channels.

Inasmuch as these files reflected that [redacted] had prior contacts with Columbia University, New York City, the records of the office of the Secretary at Columbia University were examined but failed to reveal any record of [redacted] who presumably had visited Columbia University during 1944 as a visitor from the foreign university.

Accordingly, [redacted] of [redacted] New York City, was contacted and advised that her files reflected that [redacted] who was a professor of political science of the University of Seville, in Spain, had spent several months in the United States during 1944 and during that time, he had visited the following colleges at their invitation:

Lafayette College, Eastern Pennsylvania	May 8 thru 14, 1944
Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania	April 10, 1944
College of Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.,	April 17, 1944
Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island	April 24, 1944
Catholic University, Washington, D.C.	May 1 thru 7, 1944

[redacted] further stated that her records indicated that [redacted] made an independent trip to the West Coast following his lecture tours with respect to the universities mentioned above. She stated that she had no knowledge that [redacted] had visited the United States during 1944 but she subsequently advised that her records further revealed that [redacted] had had some correspondence with the National Economic Council, Inc., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York City. She ascertained that [redacted]

NY 100-21056

had been in the United States during February and March 1948 and that the National Economic Council, Inc., had written a number of letters to various universities in the United States in preparation for [redacted] visit. She also advised that [redacted] of Columbia University, who was formerly the United States Ambassador to Spain had advised that although he had not seen [redacted] in the United States during 1948, he was recently advised that he was recalled to Spain due to the death of a relative and that he had left by air on April 2, 1948. She also recalled that the Secretary to [redacted] at the National Economic Council had also told her that [redacted] had left for Spain on April 2, 1948.

b7c The records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, [redacted] revealed a record on [redacted] relative to his entrance into the United States in 1944 and his return to Spain on September 5, 1944. This information is set forth in detail in the referenced report of SAC L. V. BOARDMAN at Philadelphia dated April 14, 1948. There was no information in the Immigration records in New York City, relative to [redacted] arrival in the United States in 1948.

In the report of SA [redacted] at Washington, D.C., dated April 5, 1948, it was noted that [redacted] Room 895 Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, contacted the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

[redacted] Credit Department, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, examined her records which failed to reflect a record on [redacted] but she ascertained that Room 895 at this hotel had been occupied by [redacted] whose address was listed as the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D.C., from March 18, 1948 to April 1, 1948.

Inasmuch as [redacted] returned to Spain on April 2, 1948, it is not anticipated that further investigation will be conducted relative to his activities in the United States.

- C L O S E D -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK

DATE: October 14, 1948

FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

SUBJECT: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, WAS
INTERNAL SECURITY - X*Merwin K. Hart*

b2
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED] has furnished this office with a copy of a letter dated September 22, 1948 addressed to [REDACTED] on stationery of [REDACTED] enclosing therein a copy of a statement "that was given to Mr. JOHN FOSTER DULLES by Mr. MERWIN K. HART".

A copy of the above letter and enclosure are being transmitted herewith to the New York Office for informational purposes.

GED:EKT
100-12460
encl.
regis. mail

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/4/00 BY 60367 mas/uc/pk

100-21056-92

F. B. I.	
OCT 18 1948	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

Director, FBI

October 26, 1948

9/8 SAC, New York

100-21056

MERWIN KIMBALL HART, with aliases
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

b2
b7c
b7d
By letter dated October 14, 1948, the Washington Field Division forwarded to this office a copy of a letter dated September 22, 1948, addressed to [REDACTED] on stationery of [REDACTED] which enclosed a copy of a statement "that was given to Mr. John Foster Dulles by Mr. Merwin K. Hart." This material was furnished to the Washington Field Office by [REDACTED] of that office.

The above-described material is being forwarded to the Bureau for information purposes.

AJT:RAA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/4/00 BY 60267 NLS/ucp/L

Enc.
REGISTERED MAIL

cc - Washington Field

100-21056-93

RAA

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

December 7, 1948

MEMO

RE: *MERWIN KIMBALL HART WAS*

The writer has reviewed the bulky exhibits for the above-captioned case and it is being retained due to the nature of the exhibit, as being of possible evidentiary value, or reference value.

SA

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *2/4/00* BY *60267/MS/ccl/gk*

*Noted
1/4/49*

RHB:HJC
100-21056



100-21056-94

F. B. I.
DEC 7 1948
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO <i>WFM</i>

Car

~~MR. SCHMIDT~~

~~MR. BELMONT~~

~~MR. WHELAN~~

~~MR. COLLIER~~

~~MR. GRANVILLE~~

~~MR.~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~MR. [unclear]~~

~~CHIEF CLERK~~

~~PROPERTY CLERK~~

~~TRAINING UNIT~~

I called Mr. A. H. Belmont of the Bureau to advise that I had received a call from HERWIN K. HART, President of the National Economic Council, who wanted some Agents to come up to see him with reference to information he has to furnish. I advised that we had given a file on him; that he has been accused of being a Fascist and he is a very controversial character; that he is mentioned frequently in newspaper columns, and has a lot of connections; he is in favor of recognizing Spain; the left-wing press is against him. I advised that an appointment had been arranged for 11 tomorrow morning; that I will assign a couple of experienced Agents. Mr. Belmont instructed that the Agents should be cautious and not make any commitments.

DATE 2/4/00 BY 60267 HUS/pep

ES: gu

Handled 3/8/50

b7c

100-21056-95

MAR 3 1950

R 45

New York, N.Y.
March 7, 1950.

MEMORANDUM

Today I received a call from Mr. MERVIN K. HART, of the NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, Room 7501, Empire State Building, telephone LA 2-1665. He stated that something has been going on in his organization that he thinks ought to be reported to this office. He suggested that an Agent come to his office to discuss this situation. He said he was going to Chicago at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow; that he could arrange an appointment for eleven o'clock tomorrow morning.

With reference to the nature of the matter he wished to discuss, he said that they had found that their files have been rifled systematically and the material has been fed to other groups; that they have quite a lot of evidence of this; that he did not know if it were enough to be conclusive but it was quite a good deal. He indicated that former Special Agent [redacted] had charge of conducting an investigation on this; that he has a copy of [redacted] report which contains some very concrete material.

I advised Mr. HART that an Agent of this office would be up to see him at 11 o'clock on the morning of March 8th.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/4/00 BY 60267 DWS/ewc/pk

EDWARD SCHEIDT
SAC

ES:gu

100 - 21056 - 96

MAR 1950

N.Y.C.

DIRECTOR, FBI

March 7, 1950

SAC, NEWARK

MERWIN K. HART
SECURITY MATTER - X

Enclosed is a copy of an article entitled "THE STRANGE CASE OF
MERWIN K. HART" made available to the Newark Office by [REDACTED]

b7C
b7D [REDACTED] stated he knew nothing about the origin of this article [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] but felt it expressed sympathies for Germany and was very
anti-Semitic.

It is to be noted that [REDACTED] made available to this office various
pro-German pamphlets prior to and during World War II.

Newark files reflect that MERWIN K. HART was described in the Daily
Worker of May 2, 1948 as the "Fascist Leader of the American Action and the
National Economic Council Inc.". He is also believed to be identical with the
MERWIN K. HART who in the past has written articles for the publication Common
Sense.

The enclosed articles are being submitted to the Bureau and New York
for their information.

cc New York (1 [REDACTED])

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/4/00 BY 60327ms/clc/pl

Enc. (1)

ECJ:ed
100-0

Searched *mk*
Serialized *mk*
Indexed
Filed

100-21056-99
FBI - NEW YORK
MAR 8 1950
[REDACTED] *RH*

b7C

Director, FBI

March 28, 1950

SAC, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/1/80 BY SP-11/100/100/100

HERWIN E. HART, Informant

SECURITY MATTER - C

Reference is made to the telephone call made on March 7, 1950, by SAC EDWARD SCHMIDT to Inspector ALAN H. NEWMONT of the Bureau concerning a request made by HERWIN E. HART, President of the National Economic Council, to furnish the New York Office with certain information which he felt would be of interest.

On March 8, 1950, HART was interviewed at his office in the Empire State Building, Room 7501, by SAs [redacted]. He advised that he is President of the National Economic Council, Incorporated, which was established in 1930. Concerning the purposes of this organization, he said that it works to uphold the rights of private enterprise, helps to protect taxpayers, and opposes Communism and Fascism. Representatives of the organization appear regularly before Congressional committees. The organization has opposed Zionism and has argued that the Franco Government in Spain should be recognized by the United States. Mr. HART said that he and his organization have been very vigorously opposed by the Anti-Defamation League and by the left wing press and radio commentators.

HART stated that about six months ago it came to his attention that information from his files was leaking out to antagonistic radio commentators and newspaper columnists. He felt certain that someone working in his office was responsible for this and suspected it was [redacted] of the organization. He suspected him because he often stayed at the office late at night when none of the employees were there. He received mysterious telephone calls; he appeared to enjoy intrigue and generally surrounded himself with an air of mystery. [redacted] had been with the organization for about three and a half years as [redacted].

and [redacted]
He was well educated, a very capable writer, and at one time, [redacted]

HART stated that about January 20, 1950, HART heard from a very reliable individual, whose identity he did not wish to divulge, that about 2,000 photostats of papers from the files of the National Economic Council

1 cc: NY 65-1801
NY 65-4098

RJB:MLV
100-21056

100-21056-78
97

Letter to Director
NY 100-21056

was in the possession of [redacted] who maintained an office at [redacted]. This informant said that [redacted] was working for the Anti-Defamation League and that this league had appropriated \$15,000.00 to pay for material which was to be obtained secretly from the files of the National Economic Council. HART decided to start an investigation and called in [redacted] a private investigator with offices at [redacted] who had been many years ago a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

b7c [redacted] conducted an investigation and put a physical surveillance on [redacted]. He found that [redacted] visited the office very often after 6:00 p.m. and took packages out of the office with him upon his departure. On February 8, he was seen to leave his office at 5:30 p.m. and walk to the building at [redacted] which he entered and subsequently came out with a man identified as [redacted]. Each was carrying a traveling bag. [redacted] departed from [redacted] and took his traveling bag into the subway at 34th Street and Sixth Avenue, where he rented a locker and put the bag into it. On the next day, [redacted] was seen to take the bag and put it into another locker in the same subway station and that evening after working hours, he took the bag out of the locker and brought it back to his office at the National Economic Council.

HART advised further that after keeping [redacted] under surveillance for some time, he, [redacted] was called into the office on February 13 and was questioned by [redacted] and an attorney, [redacted]. [redacted] said he could not account for the departure of the papers from the office and the only one he could suspect was a girl who had worked in the office for a short time some months ago. He was told that he was suspected because of his frequent presence in the office at night.

[redacted] was asked if he was acquainted with the building at [redacted] and he said that he thought he was, but said that he had been there some months ago. As to whether he was acquainted with a man named [redacted] he said he was not and that the only [redacted] he knew was his cousin by the name of [redacted] from Chicago and that he had not seen this cousin for many months. It was then pointed out to him that he had been seen on the night of February 8 coming out of the building at [redacted] with [redacted] each of them carrying a suitcase. He then admitted that that man was his [redacted]. In connection

Letter to Director
NY-100-21056

with the traveling bag, he said that for some time he had felt that he was going to lose his job with the Council and that he wanted to have a bag at the office into which he could put his papers if he did lose his job and that was the reason why he brought the bag to the office.

It was then called to his attention that the bag he brought to the office was taken out of the locker different from the one he had put the bag into the night before. He then told a strange story as to how [redacted] was going abroad and asked him to check a bag in a locker for him. This did not make sense and further questioning brought from him information that he had put one bag, which was heavy, in one locker the night before and had mailed the key to [redacted]. The next morning he received in the mail a key to another locker out of which he took the traveling bag which was empty. He could offer no plausible explanation.

[redacted] stated that he did not know whether [redacted] was actually his cousin. He said that the only thing he knew about [redacted] was that he was supposed to be living with a girl named [redacted] at [redacted]. He said that he never telephoned [redacted] because he did not know how to get in touch with him, but that [redacted] invariably telephoned him for luncheon appointments. At first he said that [redacted] had been in his house, but later he said that [redacted] was never inside the house and that he used to meet him outside. He said that [redacted] knew [redacted] but did not like him because of the way he drove a car. [redacted] was telephoned concerning this, and she denied knowing [redacted].

HART related further that [redacted] said that he had been divorced from his wife in Pennsylvania in 1940 and that he married his present wife on February 14, 1941, in North Carolina. In connection with [redacted] statement that he only knew [redacted] his cousin and the fact that he never telephoned [redacted] an examination of the telephone index on his desk proved that he was not telling the truth. [redacted] telephone guide listed [redacted] with his New York City and Long Island telephone numbers.

HART related that with regard to [redacted] not much was known concerning him except that prior to 1930, he was a newspaper reporter and a foreign correspondent. After 1930, he was in Wall Street with a firm known as THOMAS AND GRIFFITH, which firm had a great deal of difficulty with the Securities Exchange Commission. He had been married, but had trouble with his wife who eventually committed suicide. He has

Letter to Director
NY 100-21056

three children and lives in the vicinity of Huntington, Long Island, presumably at Northport where he is supposed to have an interest in a hotel. His office at [REDACTED] is known as Market Analysts. *

HART related that [REDACTED] lives in an apartment at [REDACTED] Forest Hills, Long Island, New York, and has an unlisted telephone. [REDACTED] was discharged from his position with the National Economic Council on February 13, 1950.

HART stated that he had brought this matter to the attention of the FBI because he felt that there might possibly be a federal violation involved. HART was advised that the facts as related by him did not constitute a federal violation over which the FBI had any jurisdiction.

It is noted that considerable investigation conducted on MERWIN HART is found in New York file entitled "MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was.; SECURITY MATTER - C" (Bureau file 100-128996), which case was closed January 6, 1945.

[REDACTED] was investigated as the subject of a New Haven case entitled [REDACTED] et al; INTERNAL SECURITY - R (Bureau file 100-138356). In 1937, [REDACTED] under the alias of [REDACTED] was the editor of a publication called the "American Patriot", which was an anti-Semitic, anti-Communist, and pro-totalitarian publication.

[REDACTED] was the subject of a lengthy investigation by the New York Office in case entitled "SECURITY MATTER - C" (Bureau file 65-23555). He is a private investigator of very unsavory reputation who in 1944 was known to be working for the Anti-Defamation League. The report of SA [REDACTED] at New York dated May 10, 1944, in this case contains information on page five which appears to indicate that [REDACTED] was working for [REDACTED] in November, 1943, as an undercover investigator in Detroit, Michigan. This information was obtained from a letter which was sent by a minister in Detroit who was obviously working as an undercover agent for [REDACTED]. This minister used the name of [REDACTED] which is an alias used by [REDACTED] in the past.

No further action will be taken in this matter by the New York Office.

b7c
PN

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM	
Name (Include alias) <i>65-18017-55- 100-21056-98 10-44776-23-10-54 20-37231-92</i>	<i>Not in file - believed lost. Not mentioned Adopt N.D.</i>
Address <i>[REDACTED]</i>	Age or DOB Not Shown
Relationship Reference	Place of Birth Not Shown
<i>100-42673 * cond into 1801</i>	
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <i>2/4/00</i> BY <i>60267NLS/CL/gh</i>	
Submitted By: <i>[REDACTED]</i> AGENCY: Second U.S. Civil Service Region	
FOR USE BY F.B.I. <i>100-21056-98A</i>	
RESULTS OF SEARCH: <i>[REDACTED] ESC, 4/1/54 WJS</i>	SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i> INDEXED <i>[initials]</i> SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i> FILED <i>[initials]</i> MAR 10 1954 FBI - NEW YORK <i>[initials]</i>
Name of Case <i>[REDACTED]</i>	Serial No. and Deadline Date (6).23.54.7722 4-7-54

WCCAC - END REQ - NEW YORK NY

OCTOBER 1953 - 21-124 Rev.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NY (100-21056)

DATE: 9/21/55

FROM : [REDACTED] SA

SUBJECT: MERWIN KIMBALL HART, was.
IS-X

On 9/20/55, the subject, who identified himself as President of the National Economic Council, contacted the writer by telephone.

He stated that his organization had been doing business with an individual whom he suspected might be a Communist. He asked if the FBI could check up on this individual for him.

The writer advised Mr. HART that the FBI could not furnish the results of its investigations or information from its files to private individuals or organizations.

Mr. HART apologized for making an improper request and terminated the conversation without furnishing the identity of the individual about whom he was making the inquiry.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/7/00 BY 60267 NLS/ELC/PL

WPC
WPC:EG
(2)

100-21056-101

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
OCT 23 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases National Economic Council Inc		Address of subject Empire State Building, NYC		Character of case Miscellaneous- Concerning	
Complainant [REDACTED]		Complainant's address and telephone number Grumman Aircraft Co., Bethpage, N.Y.		Complaint received <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> Tele Date 1-16-58 Time 10	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age	Weight	Eyes	Complexion	Birth date and Birthplace
Scars, marks or other data					

Facts of case: **[REDACTED]** Grumman Aircraft Engineering Company, Bethpage, N.Y. advised that the National Economic Council Letters were received by **[REDACTED]** from a casual acquaintance **[REDACTED]** Smithtown, N.Y. He advised that, upon reading these letters **[REDACTED]** was unable to determine their purpose and since he is working on classified information at the above plant desired to "go on record" to the effect that he is not a member of this organization and did not solicit the letters. **[REDACTED]** stated that his interpretation is that the contents of the letters appear to be anti-Communist but due to **[REDACTED]** wishes he is furnishing same for the information of the FBI.

File in 100-21056, file of president Minin K. Host.
EAR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/00 BY 60267HUS/cio/pj

FILE STRIPPED
BY ON

Action Recommended

No action recommended.

b7c

M. Nicola RA

100-21056-192
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
JAN 21 1958
FBI - NEW YORK
EAR

100-21056

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO : SUPERVISOR *3/1*
7/6 *6/30/64*

FROM : BULKY EXHIBITS SECTION (FILE *100-81056*)

SUBJECT: EXHIBITS MAINTAINED IN RED ROPE
FOLDERS IN BULKY EXHIBIT VAULT

The Bulky Exhibit Section has instituted a project to have above captioned exhibits thoroughly reviewed for disposal or retention.

Attached are first and last sections of file referring to exhibits in question. The first section contains the green sheets listing the exhibits.

Each supervisor receiving a copy of this memorandum is requested to have the pertinent exhibits reviewed and fill in the spaces listed below. This memorandum is to be returned to the Bulky Exhibit Section by *7-6-64*.

EXHIBITS TO BE DESTROYED: *None*

EXHIBITS TO BE RETAINED: *all*

REASON FOR RETENTION: *May be of permanent*
excellent value

EMPLOYEE REVIEWING EXHIBIT *[Redacted]*

100-81056-103

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 30 1964	
FBI - NEW YORK	

b7c



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for United States Attorneys
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
600 E Street, N.W., Room 7300
Washington, D.C. 20530
202-616-6757 Fax 202-616-6478

SEP 26 2000

Requester: Ernie Lazar Request Number: 00-2384-R

*Merwin
Hart*

Government Component that referred material: F.B.I.

Dear Requester:

This is in reply to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act request of Merwin Kimball Hart. Records were referred to us by the government component above for direct response to you.

The referred material has been considered under both the FOIA and the Privacy Act to provide you the greatest degree of access. This is a full release.

We have reviewed 23 page(s) of material; 23 is(are) being released in full and is(are) enclosed. If there is something additional we need to tell you, a continuation page will be enclosed.

This is the final action my office will take.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Little
Suzanne Little
Assistant Director
FOIA/PA Unit

Enclosure(s)

REPLY TO
ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 26, 1944

JRS

106-7-51-519

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

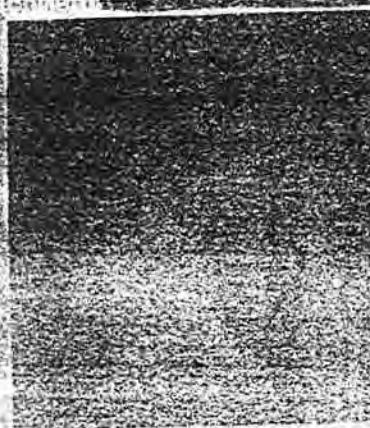
Re: Merwin K. Hart

There is attached for your information a list and short summary of the contents of the documents now in the possession of the Foreign Agents Registration Section pertaining to correspondence between Merwin K. Hart and various individuals associated with him in his activities on behalf of Franco-Spain. The documents were made available sometime ago by Miss Gladys Rowntree, one of the witnesses in the course of the trial of John E. Kelly, on the occasion of an interview between her and an attorney of this Section regarding her testimony in that case.

We will be glad to make these documents available to an agent of the Bureau.

James R. Sharp
James R. Sharp, Chief,
Foreign Agents Registration Section,
War Division.

Attachment:



KIF

Correspondence between M.K.H. and officials of the Spanish Government covering the period from 7/7/38-10/24/39

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Cardenas	M.K.H.	7/5/38	Acknowledges receipt of letter, wants to see him whenever possible.
M.K.H. (memo)	Cardenas	10/11/38	Reports on Spanish trip; says offered to broadcast to del Val; offer was accepted 9/28/38. Document in itself sufficient to prove agency for Spanish Government by M.K.H.
J.E.K.	Talbot	8/3/38	Introduces M.K.H.
J.E.K.	Shipley	7/28/38	Introducing M.K.H.
Merry del Val	M.K.H.	9/27/38	Encloses: photographs selected by M.K.H. Friendly letter. Regrets cannot arrange meeting Franco. Hopes to see him again.
Merry del Val	M.K.H.	10/24/38	Surprised that Hart's articles sent from Spain were not received. Will check.
M.K.H.	Cardenas	11/29/38	Asks for list of people to be invited to dinner at University Club. Encloses copy of invitation to be sent out.
M.K.H.	Echegaray	11/25/38	Asks for information re North American Committee to aid Spanish democracy, address to some international organization in Paris on letterhead, list of affiliated, among them Communist Party. Wants to have it.
M.K.H. (copy of copy)	Cardenas	11/23/38	Refers to conversation of afternoon. Makes suggestion as to best propaganda technique of Cardenas' proposed Chicago address. Suggests emphasis on communist views of Loyalists.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
M.K.H.	Cardenas	12/9/38	Returns list of names for invitation to dinner at University Club. Asks Cardenas to be there a little earlier.
Cardenas	M.K.H.	12/19/38	Thanks for letter and copies of address made by M.K.H. at American Patriots luncheon. Thanks him for help and cooperation.
Official of Franco Government (signature illegible) Burgos, Spain	M.K.H.	12/31/38	Spanish letter on official stationery. Thanks him for something and mentions Jane Anderson.
Edward Alleyne Sumner Paris, France	M.K.H.	1/19/39	Congratulates him on address on "our" position respecting Spain.
Cardenas	M.K.H.	2/27/39	Thanks for "wonderful address" of 2/19 and congratulates.
M.K.H.	Cardenas	3/31/39	Encloses copy of letter sent to Lowell Thomas.
M.K.H.	Patrick F. Scanlan	4/3/39	Encloses copy of news release sent to newspapers but not carried by them; asks whether it is too late for next issue of <u>Brooklyn Tablet</u> .
Gregorio, newly appointed Consul in Charge of the Spanish Consulate in New York	M.K.H.	4/10/39	Thanks for letter of congratulations and expresses gratitude for help extended by Hart to Nationalist cause.
M.K.H.	Merry del Val	4/12/39	Congratulations on outcome of Civil War and announces that he will send him book on Spain. Asks for criticism.
J.E.K.	M.K.H.	6/7/39	Makes suggestions re publicity on embargo matter.
Cardenas Spanish Embassy Stationery	M.K.H.	6/30/39	Thanks him for efforts to rectify false statements re distribution of relief furnished by American Friends Service Committee.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Francis Talbot, S.J.	M.K.H.	7/6/39	Thanks for sending copies of letters addressed by M.K.H. to Cardenas and for reference to Meiere and himself in book.
M.K.H.	Cardenas	10/24/39	Asks opinion re dissolution of A.U.N.S. and possible creation of "cultural Spanish American organization, national in scope, for promotion of friendly relations between New Spain and United States".
M.K.H.	Cardenas	No date	Asks for Spanish address of Count de Flores.

American Union for Nationalist Spain - Correspondence
concerning period from 12/28/38-11/29/39

Among the materials are membership lists signed by M.K.H. and J.E.K. Also a membership list of signers (does not say what was signed but it is believed that a telegram regarding Franco was signed) dated 1/10/39. The names of the membership list are not repeated here. According to statement on list they are all American citizens. The following are of interest:

Mr. Patrick Scanlan, Editor of the Brooklyn Tablet
Mr. J. K. Hinkel, New York Times
Dr. Joseph F. Thorning, Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md.

Among individuals of the sponsoring committee for the American Union for Nationalist Spain are also

Ralph H. Major, Jr., New Haven, Connecticut
Franklin Remington, Oyster Bay, Long Island
Hoffman Nickerson, Oyster Bay, Long Island
Bronson Trevor, 11 East 91st Street, New York, New York

and a large number of other persons.

Letters

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Joseph F. Thorning	M.K.H.	1/11/39	Accepts membership on committee A.U.F.N.S. Mentions letters to senators and representatives have already been sent, addressed N.Y. meeting 1/10/39 and dispatched telegram with 1,000 signatures to Senator Wagner.
Daniel A. Lord, S.J.	M.K.H.	1/18/39	Accepts membership A.U.N.S.
Edwd. Lodge Curran	M.K.H.	1/19/39	Accepts membership A.U.N.S. Suggests "while one mass meeting has already been held in Washington, I believe that another mass meeting . . . should be held . . ."
Alfred E. Smith	M.K.H.	1/20/39	Accepts membership A.U.N.S.
K. P. Reinhardt, Department of Germanic Languages, Stanford University	M.K.H.	1/25/39	Accepts membership A.U.N.S.

There are contained in Rowntree files many other letters of acceptance which were not taken because of no individual interest. Further correspondence as follows:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Bernard T. D'Arcy, Stationery "General Committee, Mass Meeting for Americanism and Neutrality"	"Distributors of Social Justice Magazine"	2/15/39	Publicity to advertise mass meeting.
M.K.H.	Alexander W. Weddell	10/24/39	Asks Ambassador for suggestions re possible dissolution of A.U.N.S.
Robt. Caldwell Patton	M.K.H.	1/10/39	Accepts membership A.U.N.S. Suggests four additional names and offers his experience in publicity work to the cause.
Allen Zoll	"Coworker"	2/19/39	Asking for cooperation in publicizing "Spain in Arms".
Miss Schmid (memo)	Miss Rowntree	11/27/39	"Mr. Bennett says that Mr. Edward Malone belongs to a reliable organization and it will be all right to give him tickets if we feel we can. Mr. Snow says do not hold arena section for him any longer."
M.K.H.	Rowntree	11/27/39	"Mrs. Gerald L.K. Smith, wife of the famous Gerald L.K. Smith, will call Tuesday or Wednesday for four tickets. Give her four of the best tickets you have in the \$1.10 seats and tell her they are complimentary."

Program for mass meeting for America,

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
M.K.H. (memo)	Files	9/21/39	Summarizes visit to Washington 9/20/39. Had conference with Sanger (unidentified), with Sen. Vandenberg regarding isolationist matters, with Mr. Tamm, Asst. Dir. of FBI, suggesting vigilante organization. Hart claims Tamm went with him re this effort; states in memo "I was quite impressed by Tamm. Had conference with Martin Dies and another with Rhea Whitley, counsel for Dies Committee. Dies suggested mass meeting at Madison Square Garden against Communists. Had dinner with Trevor, his son and Mrs. Walke (according to Miss Rowntree the memo is self-serving and does not contain the true facts about Hart's conference in Washington. She states that he told her a number of things which are not contained in the memo.
James Wheeler Hill Secy., German-American Bund	Cosby	11/23/38	Reserves \$20 worth of seats for the Dies meeting (note clipped to the letter says "Secretary German Bund kept off all lists A.P.F.C. 1/9/39, however, his name appears on list of guests at the meeting).
W. R. Castle	M.K.H.	12/28/40	Discusses isolationist policy and regrets that because of outspoken anti-New Dealism and anti-Semitism and anti-English attitude some people with the "right" ideas achieve poor results.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Maj. Jas. R. Randolph	M.K.Y.	10/28/38	Compliments Hart on "America Look at Spain". Accuses "Reds" of being the cause of all evils. Claims there is plot by Reds to kidnap Lindberg.
M.K.H.	Randolph	11/18/38	Acknowledgment of previous letter, not mailed, since according to note clipped to letter Cosby saw him personally.
Randolph	M.K.H.	12/5/38	Discusses nationwide plan to rid the U.S. of Reds in collaboration with John E. Kelly
Ralph H. Major, Jr. (Stationery of Yale University)	M.K.H.	1/28/39	Asks to be enrolled in American Union for Nationalist Spain. Had correspondence with Franco and signs his name and Arriba Espana (Falangist salute).
Jos. F. Thorming	M.K.H.	1/11/39	Accepts membership on Committee of American Union, but asks that he be characterized as professor rather than clergyman. The letters to senators and representatives have already been sent. At a meeting, the address in N.Y., last Monday night a telegram with 1,000 signatures was dispatched to Sen. Wagner.
Ann Morgan	M.K.H.	2/8/39	Accepts membership on Committee. Suggests that before "Spain in Arms" is shown "the elimination of certain things for the public showing of the picture - above all the speaking in the center of Madrid and also a little less Fascisti technique in the work all with children."
Gertrude Atherton	M.K.H.	1/24/39	In favor of Franco, does not believe he is Fascist. Accepts membership on Committee.

Committee to send anesthetics and medicine to Spain
Period covering 1940 to beginning of 1941

Photostatic copy of letterhead of committee with additional names typed in.

Letters

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Jeanne (probably de Arraoz)	M.K.H.	1/8/40	Discusses Hemingway and committee, mentions Dr. Castroviejo as representative of Falange in New York.
M.K.H.	Ogden H. Hammond	6/20/40	Transmits \$500 check of the Texas Company.
Ogden H. Hammond	M.K.H.	6/21/40	Acknowledging receipt of \$500 plus \$250 from International Tel. & Tel. \$25. Mr. Walter M. Walters also announces National City Bank will subscribe \$250.
Armstrong	M.K.H.	6/24/40	Armstrong Cork Co. voted to donate \$250

Photostat copy of accounting by Ogden H. Hammond, 7/26/40, \$2,726.13

Francis Talbot	M.K.H.	1/8/41	In favor of enlarging committee but refuses to serve together with Hemingway.
Anne Morgan	M.K.H.	1/9/41	General talk re committee

Miscellaneous activities of M.K.H. as publicity
agent on behalf of Spain.

Broadcast from Malaga, 9/29/38, titled "America Look at Spain" made with the consent of the Spanish Minister of Propaganda (compare memorandum to Cardenas by M.J.H. re Spanish trip). This broadcast was reprinted in the magazine Spain 10/15/38, under by-line of Merwin K. Hart, President, New York State Economic Council.

News release dated December 30, 1938.

Letter from M.K.H., President, N.Y.S.E.C., to Sumner Wells, dealing with relief in Spain. Suggests denying that Spain is in need of relief, alleging that on the Nationalist side "food is both abundant and cheap". Objecting to proposal to send food to both sides and generally name-calling of Loyalists.

Mimeographed copy of "Remarks of Merwin K. Hart, President, New York State Economic Council, at the annual meeting of the American Coalition, Carlton Hotel, Washington, D. C., January 24, 1939, Flagrant propaganda for Nationalist Spain and criticizing Dorothy Thompson's attitude proposing that "our government move fast to lay the foundation for close relations with New Spain . . . Good relations between the American Republic and New Spain will help to make good relations between the American Republic and Latin America."

Introduction by Father Stedman of Professor Thorning, M.K.H. and Meiere on a radio program over WQXR relating to Spain.

Typed manuscript of broadcast over Station LUQXR and May 11, 1939, called "The Present and Future of Spain".

Printed "Open letter to the Secretary of State of the United States by M.K.H., President, N.Y.S.E.C., dated 12/28/38, objecting to American intervention on behalf of the Loyalist Government in the Spanish Civil War.

Resolution offered at pro-American mass meeting 2/19/39, 7th Regiment Armory, John B. Trevor, President of American Coalition, objecting to lifting of embargo or otherwise interfering in European questions.

Contacts between M.K.H. and Jane Anderson

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Anderson	M.K.H.	6/14/38	Informs him that she has introduced him to influential Spaniards preparatory to his trip to Spain.
Anderson	M.K.H.	6/24/38	Informs him to status of Cardenas
Cardenas	M.K.H.	6/20/38	Says Anderson told him about Hart. Would like to introduce Hart to people in Spain but first would like to know more about him.
M.K.H.	Anderson	8/11/38	Discusses Anderson's speech before Women's National Republican Club. States that he will sail 8/27/38.
M.K.H.	Kennedy	6/30/39	Introducing Jane Anderson re her taking book "America Look at Spain" to Spain for distribution. Spanish Consul General promises assistance in matter.
Anderson	M.K.H.	No date	Best wishes for trip to Spain.

Telegram from Anderson to M.K.H. 6/24/38, gives Anderson's address in New York.

Miscellaneous Connections

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
N.Y.S.E.C.	Council Letter Readers	No date	Asks for contributions and mail to representatives to get the Dies Committee reappointed.
M.K.H.		12/8/38	Introducing Congressman Dies at luncheon.
John B. Snow	M.K.H.	9/10/38	Discusses petition to be circulated to all persons who attended the Dies luncheon.
John B. Trevor American Coalition	Vice-Pres. Garner and members of U.S. Senate	2/1/39	Against lifting of embargo.
John B. Snow	M.K.H.	1/17/39	Expresses sympathy for Franco but declines membership in A.U.N.S. as matter of principle.
Flora Walker American Coalition	M.K.H.	4/10/39	"The shipment arrived safely and is appreciated very much. Will try to prove it by placing where they will do good coming and going.
Robt. Appleton American Defense Society	M.K.H.	4/20/39	Asks for collaboration re luncheon to be given 5/6 to Senator Robt. R. Reynolds.
Flora A. Walker	M.K.H.	4/25/39	Acknowledges receipt of book. Knows ahead that she will approve it as did Capt. Trevor.
Walker	M.K.H.	9/12/39	"Trevor said you want these implements of war; I regret much not to be able to send you some of our flyers. The stock is exhausted and we have only a file copy."
Walker	M.K.H.	9/16/39	Thanks for 2 copies of "Address on Schools" but asks for more, "Please send me 24 with bill." Also include copies of Mr. Dies' Speech.
George H. Sheldon Advertising	M.K.H.	5/1/40	Reports that, although contacted twice, Mr. Dies turned down invitation to speak at the Union League Club. Thanks M.K.H. for cooperation in putting Sheldon in touch with Dies.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Walker	M.K.H.	6/15/40	Not particularly interesting.
Chas. A. Lindberg	M.K.H.	6/21/40	Congratulates M.K.H. on "excellent work in your position to our entering the war". Wishes to know public reaction to stand taken by M.K.H.
Snow	M.K.H.	7/18/39	Informs M.K.H. that he received letter from Executive Secretary of the Manufacturers Association, Racine, Wisc., which reports on efforts to increase distribution of "America Look at Spain".
Snow	M.K.H.	1/20/40	Asks for 10 more copies of speech on subversive activities in schools.
M.K.H.	Hamilton Fish	9/11/40	Reference to conversation in Fish's office, encloses advertisement of committee to defend America by aiding the Allies, commenting on names mentioned in advertising. Wishes to know whether they are foreign agents and asks Fish to find out.
R. Douglas Stuart, Jr. Director, America First Committee	M.K.H.	9/20/40	Thanks for copy of address made by Hart.
R. Douglas Stuart, Jr.	M.K.H.	9/30/40	not Does/think it good idea to set up a chapter of the America First Committee through N.Y.S.E.C. which has been identified with certain political views. However, wants work together with them.
R. E. Wood Sears Roebuck	M.K.H.	10/22/40	Acknowledges letter, informs that America First Committee had talk printed; transmits 10 copies, additional copies can be furnished
Walker	M.K.H.	11/9/40	"The box of your speech" 'The Alien Influence in Our Midst' arrived and we are extremely grateful for your generosity. We shall 'plant' them in fruitful spots."

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Robt. Appleton	M.K.H.	No date 12/15 ?	Discusses dinner given by society on behalf of Lt. Gen. H.A. Drum. "Peace through Preparedness" dinner. M.K.H. name planned to be on committee.
Sheldon	M.K.H.	4/17/40	Discusses Dies' speech before Union League Club. Club is willing to pay "substantial honorarium".
Martin Dies	M.K.H.	2/14/29	Acknowledges check for \$200 expenses for speech on 12/7. Says is more than he spent and will return surplus as soon as it is computed.

Photostat copy of list of societies cooperating with the American Coalition.

Program of luncheon and dinner of Congressman Dies' speech entitled "The Insidious Wiles of Foreign Influence".

Original invitation to a meeting on December 8, 1938, by the American Immigration Conference Board regarding restriction of immigration. Presiding, John E. Kelly; chairman, Mrs. A. Cressy Morrison.

Leaflet inviting to a meeting before the pro-American Forum November 20, year unknown; speaker, J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies Committee on the Communist United Front in America. Also November 18 luncheon with Juan de Cardenas, speaker, "The Background of the Spanish Nationalist Movement". The meeting was sponsored by the "American Patriots" (Allan Zoll). Other speakers for the organization were mentioned as follows:

Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling
Dr. Edward Lodge Curran (10/30) - and future speakers:

Congressman Martin Dies
Maj. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley
Congressman Claire Hoffman of Michigan - and "others of like calibre".

Program of luncheon 12/8/38, sponsored by the N.Y.S.E.C.

Rugg Textbook Campaign

This campaign was mostly conducted under the heading "American Parents Committee on Education, 505 5th Avenue, New York City".

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
A. G. Rudd	M.K.H.	9/20/39	Is willing to give comments on textbooks he has read. Compiles list of books used in New York schools. Has no doubt that Rugg books are in New York Schools.
Douglas Fisher	A.T.Falk Advertis- ing Federation of America	1/15/40	Transmits Economic Council letter dealing with educational course in New York State.
Rudd	M.K.H.	3/22/40	Discusses future of "campaign". Discussed it with associates who agree "the strength of this movement is enhanced if it can be organized by committees of citizens who are acting solely as parents. Therefore, does not wish to be associated with N.Y.S.E.C. but is willing to collaborate.
Unidentified	A.T.Falk	3/28/40	Jubilates that Dies Committee, greatly on account of "our representations", has authorized text book investigation "in exposing Fascists, communistic and other alien influences which are reflected in highschool and college text books; the investigation will point out unwarranted attacks on advertising and other elements of the American system, particularly when the authors have had any 'subversive' affiliations J. B. Matthews emphasized again that any report from you concerning resolutions or other actions had been by civil groups with respect to the Rugg text books would be extremely helpful.
Victor F. Kiser	M.K.H.	3/28/40	Discusses meeting of committee with "Regents".

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Falk (copy of confidential report to directors on stationery of Advertising Federation of America)	M.K.H.	4/4/40	Summarizes activities of Federation in contacting "entire advertising propaganda in school books . . . Promoting an investigation of text books by the Dies Committee."
Falk	Douglas Fisher N.Y.S.E.C.	4/18/40	Dealing with activities on Rugg text books.
Charles Bacon	M.K.H.	5/13/40	Bacon is competitor to Rugg's text books and makes "helpful" suggestions as to M.K.H.'s propaganda technique.
Peter Dauenheimer Germania Civic Assn.	N.Y.S.E.C.	5/14/40	Asks for information on un-American Rugg text books and how "to rid our city of these so-called un-American books."
Hoffman Nickerson	M.K.H.	5/18/40	Wants to help campaign against "subversive teaching in American schools"; makes some suggestions. Somewhat indirectly Objects to Speaker Sokolsky because he is Jewish and does not understand true Americanism.
Forbes	M.K.H.	5/23/40	Shows M.K.H. what he is doing as a member of Board of Education of Englewood, N.J. against Rugg books. Asks for suggestions. Pencil notes on letter suggest "We could furnish letter sent speakers (Stephenson, Cless, Rudd).
H. L. Chaillaux American Legion Director, National Americanism Commission (File #2753-27)	John B. Anderson Secy., American Parent Commission on Education	5/31/40	Thanks for report which shows success in common battle against Left Wing theories in educational system. Wants to be kept informed.
Parker	A.P.C.E. Anderson	6/11/40	Informs that at special meeting of school district \$10,000 for text books was voted, Rugg's to be excluded, possibly result of efforts by organization.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Chaillaux	A.P.C.E. Anderson	6/22/40	Acknowledges receipt of 2 letters. Thanks for interest in Americanism program of Legion. Although no resolution past re Rugg text books are aware of the subversive material contained in the Rugg social science text books are against subversiveness in schools and enclosed \$9 for one set of your transcriptions on the Rugg series.
American Legion	Part of check	6/24/40	"For transcriptions on 'justified' doctrines in school text books" \$9
P.W.Soderberg, J.B.Ford Sales Co., Wyandotte, Mich.	A.P.C.E. Anderson	6/28/40	Thanks for literature. Is not familiar with Rugg text books but interested in problem. Kicks about school in general, "modern" education. Wants to look into the matter.
Chaillaux	A.P.C.E. Anderson	6/29/40	Announces article on Rugg books in August or Sept. issue of <u>American Legion Magazine</u> ; if that article not to be used, willing to use article offered by A.P.C.E. Asked them to submit it.
A.P.C.E.	Soderbert	7/1/40	Transmitting "propaganda" against Rugg books and communism. Want to exterminate Rugg books. "We were created because the correspondence from all over the country to Mr. Merwin K. Hart, President, N.Y.S.E. got so heavy that the special unit had to be set up to handle it and to sort of act as a clearing house of information - application enclosed."
Mrs. Brosseau Greenwich, Conn. National Society of Daughters of the Barons of Runnymede.	Anderson	7/2/40	Asks for typed report on Rugg books to present to her study group.
Forbes	M.K.H.	7/2/40	Submits list of school books for Hart's opinion as to quality.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Chaillaux	A.P.C.E. Anderson	7/12/40	In reply to request informs that headquarters of American Legion do not originate convention resolutions. Suggests contact with Commander of the New York Legion Post.
Chaillaux	M.K.H.	7/26/40	Asks for aid in discussing "negatively" Rugg's text books at November meeting of National Americanism Commission; "this would aid me in my effort to sell the idea to the National Americanism Commission."
William R. Kelly Supt. of Catholic Schools	A.P.C.E. Anderson	7/29/40	States that he does not think Rugg books used by his schools.
Anderson	Skinner Consumer Div. Crowell-Collier Publishing Co.	8/14/40	Transmits 24 copies of Hart's "Are there subversive activities in our schools?" Also 25 copies of 3 talks given over Radio Station WIBX of Utica on same subject. Charge for formal pamphlet \$1, for other at your discretion since not ordered. "This committee is in communication with more than 150 different places in 22 states throughout the country, including the Philippines and Hawaii and groups are taking a real interest in saving the schools from Mardian philosophy. 20 districts have discarded the Prof. Rugg social science series of text books."
Anderson	American Coalition	8/24/40	Supplies reprints of "Frontier Thinkers" (for use in schools and furnishes price schedules for up to 3,000 copies).
Teeling Board of Education Mountain View, N.J.	A.P.C.E.	8/30/40	<p>Informes that Rugg text books discontinued. Typed slip attached as follows:</p> <p>"Mr. Hart:</p> <p>"The attached inquiry from Mountain View, N.J. nicely demonstrates that ousting the Rugg philosophy is, to use your phrase, purchasable</p> <p>One - he inquired</p> <p>Two - we supplied the information</p> <p>Three - out goes Rugg books.</p> <p>"John"</p>

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Clayton Burlington Free Press	Anderson	9/27/40	Wants list of places in the U.S. that have ousted Rugg books. Thanks for interest of organization in "our problem of Rugg books in Vermont schools."
Brosseau National Officers Club Daughters of American Revolution	Anderson	No date	Reports on our efforts and successes in anti-Rugg book campaign.
Robt. G. Davis Harvard University	N.Y.S.E.C.	No date	Asks for literature on A.P.C.E. apparently for purposes of thesis.

Printed pamphlet (reprint from American Legion Magazine (Sept. 1940) "Treason in the Text Books", by O. K. Armstrong, anti-Rugg, with list of Rugg text books and other "Leftist" school books, among them books by Aharles Beard. Also instructions by the A.P.C.E. for campaign against text books.

Lammot du Pont	M.K.H.	1/2/42	Encloses check for \$4,000 "Subscription to the work of the organization for 1942".
Anne Morgan	M.K.H.	1/20/39	Encloses check, amount unknown.